CONTENTS

		Page
The XLVI Madras State Educational Conference, Chingleput—Report of:		
(1) First General Session	...	261
(2) Administration, Organisation and Teacher Education Section	...	270
(3) Secondary and Technical Education Section	...	273
(4) University Education Section	...	275
(5) Primary and Basic Education Section	...	277
(6) Elementary School Teachers' Conference	...	279
(7) Sabhesan Memorial Lecture	...	280
(8) Second General Session	...	281
(9) Workers' Meeting	...	281
(10) Conference of Headmaster-Delegates	...	282
(11) Conference of Assistant Masters	...	284
(12) Third General Session	...	285
(13) Concluding Session	...	287
(14) Meeting of Headmasters who attended Seminars and Workshops	...	288
S. I. T. U. Annual General Body Meeting	...	289
S. I. T. U. Meeting of the Executive Board	...	292
Appeal for S. I. T. U. Building Fund	...	295
S. I. T. U. Benevolent Fund	...	299
From Our Associations	...	301
News and Notes	...	305
Our Bookshelf	...	307
Our Letter-Box	...	308
S. I. T. U. Publications Ltd.—Annual Report, Accounts etc.	...	309
Language Problems in India	...	317
Deputation of the S. I. T. U.	...	319
Editorial	...	321

THE

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THE XLVI MADRAS STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, CHINGLEPUT

(14th, 15th and 16th May 1956)

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

The Forty-sixth Madras State Educational Conference was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th May 1956 in the specially erected and tastefully decorated spacious pandal in the compound of Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya Girls High School, Chingleput. Sri S. Natarajan, Director of Field Advisory Services and Joint Secretary, All India Council for Secondary Education, New Delhi, presided over the Conference. About 500 delegates from all parts of the State attended the Conference. The Reception Committee had made all possible arrangements for the successful conduct of the Conference and for the comfortable stay of the delegates.

Even half an hour before the time fixed for the opening of the exhibition, which may be considered as an important adjunct to any educational conference, the teacher delegates and visitors began to gather in the premises. A number of publishers had taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Conference to exhibit their books and other kinds of teaching material of use and interest to children and teachers.

Nadaswaram arranged by the organisers provided not only a happy welcome, but a sweet preliminary entertainment to the gathering. Right at the appointed time, 9 a.m., the distinguished visitors arrived.

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The function began with prayer.

On behalf of the Chingleput District Teachers' Guild, its President, Sri A. S. Johnson, extended his greetings to the delegates and visitors. He said:-

Esteemed Friends,

As President of the Chingleput District Teachers' Guild and as President of the Working Committee of the Reception Committee, I have much pleasure in welcoming you all to the Conference held in this town. To one who has been a teacher for 27 years, it is a heart-warming thing to meet fellow-teachers in such large numbers from different parts of the State, many of them veterans in the field of education, and not a few top-ranking specialists. We are meeting at a time when the educational pattern is in the melting pot again. In 1948, changes were dumped on us without any reference to our views in the matter. But the teaching profession, by and large, accepted the changes cheerfully and tried to work them out successfully.

The interest and enthusiasm perhaps have flagged with the passage of time. And now, far-reaching changes are in the air again. But the State is adopting a go-slow policy and trying to elicit as many different opinions as possible, especially of the members of the teaching profession. Now that we have a say in the matter, it is up to us to give a considered opinion on the different aspects of the White Paper on Education recently issued by the Government. I am sure, we as a body of teachers will rise to the occasion and see to it that no hasty or unwise experiments are made on the rising generation of youngsters with harmful and far-reaching effects on them.

A discontented teacher is a menace to society as he is responsible for moulding the intellects and character of the children entrusted to his care. Without contentment and happiness in work, a teacher cannot do his work effectively. On the other hand, he will do more harm than good to the children committed to his charge. It is therefore the duty of the society and the state to keep teachers above want, to pay them living wages, to help and encourage them to be happy and contented in their work. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the teacher to be aware of his high calling and never to lose sight of the high ideals of what is commonly termed "the noblest of professions".

I do not think that it will be out of place for me to give a brief history of the Guild in this District. I understand that it came into existence in 1931 in the time of the late Dr. Maclean, a veteran educationist of Kancheepuram. In 1946, when Dr. Freeman, Principal of St. Joseph's High School, Chingleput and President of the Guild left for Bangalore, I was called upon to take up the Presidentship. I was Headmaster of the Anderson High School, Kancheepuram at that time. A questionnaire on Education was fully discussed during the year 1946-47. For reasons of health, I had to resign my post in the summer of 1947. After my resignation, there was a break of one year in the course of the Guild, but in 1948, it was revived, and Mr. A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar, Headmaster of the Pachaiyappa's High School, Kancheepuram, was made President of the Guild. He continued in that capacity for six years and rendered substantial yeoman service to the cause of the Guild. Two years ago, I was re-elected President. I am sorry to say that in spite of our best efforts, the enrolment of teachers in the Guild has been hardly 50 per cent so far. But we are looking with faith and courage to the future and we hope that in the not distant future, every teacher in this district will realize that "Union is strength", and that there will be a cent per cent enrolment of teachers. Attempts have been made to affiliate Elementary School Teachers' Associations to the Guild, without much fruit to date, but a few associations have started coming in, and we hope for a cent per cent abolition of the "caste system" among teachers in this District in due course.

Educationally and economically, the Chingleput District is a backward area when compared with some other Districts in the State. But Chingleput is a nice little town as you can see for yourselves, with hills and lakes and paddy fields in and around it. It is fortunate in having as its City Father a person of ripe experience, deep sagacity and philanthropic bent whose one objective in life is to make as many improvements to the town as possible, putting disinterested service above everything else. I am referring to the Chairman of the Reception Committee, namely, Rao Bahadur Sri M. Vedachala Mudaliar, an oil king and a man of diverse interests and many-sided benefactions. Is it any wonder that he has been Chairman of the Chingleput Municipality for 27 years in succession, an almost unheard of thing in other parts of the State? We are fortunate in having secured his patronage as Chairman of the Reception Committee in spite of his enfeebled health.

We are also fortunate in having secured the services of Sri T. Purushothama Mudaliar, B.A., M.L.C., to declare the Exhibition open, as he is a man of deep and abiding interest in education.

Friends, Chingleput is important because of its location. It is the gateway to Tirukalikundram, Mahabalipuram, Vedanthangal, Kancheepuram and other places. It is needless for me to describe the importance of these well-known places to which you have easy access through Chingleput.

I hope and pray that your stay here, though brief, will be happy and pleasant. I am acutely conscious of the defects in the arrangements we have made for the reception of the delegates. Several unforeseen difficulties and our own lack of experience have militated against us. The partial success of the arrangements is due to the untiring efforts of the able and enthusiastic Secretary Sri T. E. Santhanam, Secretary, Chingleput District Teachers' Guild, and the wise guidance of his able father Sri T. E. V. Sarma, Principal and Correspondent of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Institutions at Chingleput. The short-comings are to be laid at my door, and my only plea is an unsatisfactory state of health during the last few weeks. But after all, we are fellow-teachers, accustomed to hardship, and as we all know, the heart of the giver is more important than the gift itself. I pray you, therefore, to take the will for the deed and accept our warmest regards in spite of our shortcomings.

May I conclude with my best wishes for the success of the conference, which is safe in the capable hands of the former President of the S.I.T.U. and the present Joint Secretary of the All India Council of Secondary Education, namely Sri S. Natarajan, and for your own happy, pleasant and useful stay here ?

The Convenor of the Exhibition Committee, Sri S. Natarajan, Headmaster, Board High School, Cheyyur, after giving an account of the arrangements of the exhibition, requested Sri T. Purushothama Mudaliar, M.L.C., to declare the Exhibition open.

Sri T. Purushothama Mudaliar declaring the Exhibition open said :

I feel extremely happy at the rare honour accorded to me in being asked to open the Educational Exhibition, an adjunct of the 46th State Educational Conference. I have no doubt that the Exhibition serves more purpose than one. The teachers and the pupils have vied with each other and we have a marvellous collection of exhibits here. The development of synthetic craft training as a part of general education would, I am sure, receive great fillip by such Educational Exhibitions. I am of the firm view that in the higher elementary schools or the corresponding standards in any future set-up there should be a positive emphasis on study of technical subjects and thus a taste for cottage industries in the school children of that age should be created, so that they may set themselves to learn some trade or handicraft and equip themselves for life. It is such a system of children's training that has made Japan a pioneer in small scale industries.

Next, the teacher stands to gain a lot by these Exhibitions. In the wake of independence, the country is faced with educational reorganisation schemes. The content and programme of education is sought to be completely reorientated and it is the teacher who has to implement these schemes, and readjust to the new standards and ideas. The educational exhibition with various teaching aids freshly drawn up to suit modern trends and reorganised courses, would be an education in itself to the teachers. The Education Department ought to have participated in it. I trust the Department has got a good stock of posters and other exhibits and if not, it is time they prepared instructive models, maps, statistical guides etc. for the benefit of teachers and the public too, for, need I emphasise the value of educational propaganda as a vital plank in

our programme of educational advancement.

I have therefore suggested in my message to the conference that the exhibits should be open to the public these three days. In fact, I should have wished that the Exhibition and the Conference too should well have been held in a suitable rural centre. There is great need for such propaganda in villages by means of mobile vans if that could be done. The State is committed to the policy of universal, free and compulsory education within a period of ten years of our country's independence and we are woefully behind the schedule in this vital matter affecting the future of this young democracy with the weapon of adult franchise already in our unripe hands. The White Paper on Education gives lurid figures of the appalling state of educational backwardness in our State. The percentage of literacy is so low especially in villages that effective steps should be taken to raise the percentage, a problem which I would consider even more urgent than raising the standards of educational systems. A machinery should be created for the purpose, side by side with the educational reorganisation in the air.

I should invoke the aid of the statutory body—the Local Library Authority for the purpose. The object of the Madras Public Libraries Act is not merely to have a few libraries here and there but the fundamental idea is to aid the cultural advancement of the country. All cultural activities of the kind I stated just now, viz., educational propaganda and allied schemes, such as adult education, rural exhibitions, audio-visual instructions, etc., could be entrusted to the Local Library authorities and they could effectively work up such schemes for the benefit of the public and the general advancement of education.

I congratulate the organisers and the participants in the Exhibition on their successful endeavours. The teachers have a great task before them and in this you should be united and work in a team spirit. I say this because I saw recently one of your teacher organisations making a remark in one of their resolutions, viz., that it is a known fact that the efficiency and quality of education given in the schools under corporate bodies like the Corporation, local bodies, etc. is far too mediocre and inefficient. What a sad thing for a teachers' organisation to say against another set of teachers. I strongly condemn such utterances and I would appeal to all members of the noble profession to work in a spirit of brotherhood and work for common good. Equally am I upset that another teachers' organisation held out a threat as follows:—While urging the Government to alleviate the hardships of teachers without delay—a perfectly legitimate demand, I admit—the resolution states that unless the Government alleviates the hardship referred to, no improvement in efficiency so necessary for the successful working of the reorganised scheme is possible. Need I comment on this ? Thank you.

WELCOME ADDRESS

In the unavoidable absence, for reasons of health, of Rao Bahadur Sri M. Vedachala Mudaliar, Chairman of the Reception Committee, his welcome address was read by Sri A. S. Johnson, President of the Working Committee of the Reception Committee.

Mr. President, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am thankful to the organisers of this Conference for having asked me to be Chairman of the Reception Committee to the 46th Madras State Educational Conference to be held in the Chingleput District after a lapse of, I understand, more than 30 years. Indeed, I look upon this as an honour and privilege. I have always held teachers in esteem, and I believe that no real progress can be achieved by the state or nation without sound education.

These are days of changes, when sometimes changes are made merely for the sake of change. Call me a conservative if you will, but I believe that changes should not be rushed through in the field of Education without consulting the opinion of teachers themselves, who are engaged in the task of teaching and should, therefore, know more about the principles of sound education than outsiders, however highly they may be placed in life, and of course in consultation with parents as well, without whose goodwill and co-operation, no scheme of education can be successful. I consider it unfortunate that everyone should have a say in matters of education except the educators themselves and the beneficiaries.

Recently, a White Paper has been issued by Government. I am glad the Hon'ble Minister for Education has made a democratic approach in inviting the opinions of Parents and the Public and of educational organisations before introducing any radical changes in the system of education. This Conference has therefore met at a momentous time, and I hope and pray, all the delegates to this Conference and the educational experts who have come here to guide them in their deliberations will realise the importance of any decisions made by them at this Conference, and will consider every proposed change with deep care and profound thought.

To my mind, there was much good in the system of education which prevailed in my younger days. Remodelling, I can understand, where it is necessary, but wholesale destruction of existing things, merely to provide for a new order of things in these changing times, I cannot reconcile myself to. I believe that if Education should be successful, every teacher should do his duty in a spirit of service, I was about to say, with missionary zeal. While teachers do their work in a spirit of selfless devoted service, it is the duty of Society, nay, of the State itself, to place teachers above want and discontent.

Discipline, to my mind, is the keynote of success in education. I do not approve of students taking part in strikes and hartals. Education should be *removed* from the turmoil of politics.

As one who has been Chairman of the Chingleput Municipality for nearly three decades, I have much pleasure in welcoming you all to this town and I hope your Conference will be the success that it should be and that your stay in Chingleput, though brief, will be happy and pleasant.

I once again thank the organisers of this Conference for the honour they have done me in asking me to be Chairman of the Reception Committee, and I offer a hearty welcome to you, one and all, and I wish this Conference all success.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, then delivered the following Inaugural Address :

I am deeply sensible of the honour you have done me in inviting me to inaugurate the 46th State Educational Conference for which I am thankful. You have, perhaps, been misled into considering me an expert in education by reason of the office I hold at present. But I am not aware of any high qualification or expert knowledge to guide or advise you, viz., the veterans in the field of education. However, I feel happy to associate myself with you today and to participate in this important assembly of teachers for whom, as a class, I have always entertained the highest regard. A perusal of your proceedings in the earlier conferences which had been addressed by the most distinguished educationists of the State fills me with some misgivings as to what I can possibly say which will be either new or stimulating. All that can be said on the important and varied problems of education had been expressed better by those who had addressed you

in these Conferences. Still there are certain truths—both of religion and education—which bear repetition and in this hope I expect to receive your attention by recalling just a few of those problems which are important still and which had been discussed before.

It will be agreed that this Conference is held at the most opportune moment —namely after the publication of the Government's White Paper on Education and before the Government's final decision thereon. Even if you had not been holding the annual conference,—and I congratulate you on holding this 46th—this Conference should have been specially convened to discuss the problems of educational re-organisation. Teachers with your experience and service in the field of education are the most competent to give the necessary guidance for the shaping of the educational policy which the Government could implement with safety and advantage.

The White Paper itself was discussed at some length in the State Legislature and, as you are well aware, the proposals of the White Paper are to be considered by a Joint Select Committee —a decision as wise as it is really opportune for effecting useful reforms in Education. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for Education who had displayed not merely great ability but real sympathy in dealing with this question and shown himself most willing to consult and to be guided by enlightened public opinion. He himself had inaugurated the State Educational Conference in 1954 when he observed that with the co-operation of the teachers and the public he hoped that he would find himself in a better position than before. Even good things, he added, should be accepted with the support of the public in a good democracy. Both then and now the Hon'ble Minister has shown himself that he is alive to the needs of Education and of his determination to give an orientation to Educational policies. It is indeed a golden opportunity for the teachers who are assembled here to make considered proposals for the re-organisation of Education in all aspects and at all levels—Elementary, Secondary and the Higher.

There is, I believe, broad agreement on the main proposals embodied in the White Paper. I am sure that you will discuss in detail the many recommendations contained therein. While I am unwilling to pronounce on the merits of particular proposals, I may be permitted to observe in general that education for a civilised and enlightened democracy should be the objective at the present moment. The late Henry Wallace coined the political epigram that this is the century of the common man. The extension of the suffrage to every adult citizen and the democratic pattern of Government we have rightly accepted as our political ideal make it necessary that the common man, the representative citizen of India, must be in a position to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the Nation, to decide the course of legislation and to shape the pattern of political and economic life of our country. The primary purpose of education at present should be to qualify the citizens for this responsible task. All those who have the interest of education must aim at devising such facilities as will promote this object and thereby raise the standard of understanding and conduct. Some schools of study are better able to achieve these results than others and it must be our task to find out the best that will promote a higher standard of thinking and living. All great educationists have been interested in discovering the means to achieve the ethical and moral elevation of the citizens. That great Headmaster Dr. Arnold, the most renowned English educationist of the 19th century, placed the formation of character as the highest aim of true education. He created an ideal and establishd a tradition which had their permanent influence on the national life in England.

One of the chief elements in the building up of the citizen's character is

social behaviour. It is said that all men are born to four citizenship—as members of the family, as members of the community, as members of the Nation and as members of the whole human society. Here it is only necessary to speak of the citizenship of the Nation. It means that the citizens must learn to live with others, respect each other and promote the common good of the nation. Each one must play worthily his part and make a contribution to promote the national well-being. In a democracy this is achieved by means of free and open discussion, after which a decision by the majority is accepted even if it goes against one's opinions and desires. In a democracy this quality is more necessary than in any other form of Government. Discipline and freedom are the essence of the democratic way of life. But this freedom and discipline are self chosen and are the result of a willing acceptance of the common good of the community. Such an attitude is most urgently needed for the citizens of our infant democracy and the right type of education must promote these qualities at the present moment. I have no doubt that your deliberations will keep this purpose in the fore-front and will lead to proposals which will ensure the attainment of this object by those who are to benefit by the system of education.

Coming now to the several stages of Education—that primary education should be free and compulsory is now the accepted goal of educational policy as laid down by the directive principle of Article 45 of the Constitution of India. At the same time it is now realised that the progress towards this goal has not been altogether satisfactory in spite of the great and sincere endeavours of the Government. It is not possible for the Government to implement this objective within the coming four years. At the same time this problem should be faced in a realistic manner. While there are difficulties in the introduction of free and compulsory education for all school-going children, the Government should take determined steps to make it a reality at least within the next 15 years. It is unnecessary to go into detailed figures. Everybody will agree that it is sound policy to proceed by progressive stages, consolidating the gains of the past and by expanding the facilities for education at an increasing rate. It is safer to aim at sure and steady progress than to make a great effort all at once to accomplish in four years what should really be completed in a period of about 15 years. We must remember that the general poverty of our people and the backwardness of society in general make it almost impossible for the Government to carry out the provision embodied with great optimism in our Constitution at the time it was framed. At that time the framers of the Constitution did not and could not take account of all the difficulties; in fact it may be even said that at that time all the difficulties and implications could not be fully understood and visualised. Now that the magnitude of the problem is well realised, I venture to think that the acceptance of the goal of introducing free and compulsory education need not be literally undertaken within the prescribed period, viz., before 1960. As experienced educationists who are fully cognizant of the complexities of the problem, I would earnestly request you to study this question with a view to draw up a phased programme of free and compulsory education for the Government to implement. Such a solution must take note of all the factors that now stand in the way of real progress—the poverty and the illiteracy of the parents in general, the un-attractive conditions of life in villages in which the teacher finds it difficult to find accommodation lacking even the minimum standard of a satisfactory life, the major evils of "stagnation and waste" that now prevail and finally the limited resources of the Government.

There is I believe general agreement to the proposal of the White Paper for a 7 years course of integrated element-

ary education and the integrated course of study is to be particularly welcomed. But I am not convinced that the proposal to fix the age of admission either at 6 or 5½ is right. The age limit may well be fixed at 5 in view of the special conditions prevailing in our country. Further it would not be disadvantageous to any class of children. It is felt that the absence of any provision for pre-primary or kindergarten courses in the White Paper is a serious omission.

Perhaps the most important part of the reform of Education is the place of the teacher himself. He occupies a pivotal position in any educational scheme. The quality of education depends more on his teaching than on the courses of study. Our own ancient system of education centered round the Guru who used such methods as were suited to develop the highest qualities and the talents of the pupils. I have no doubt whatever that real and solid progress in education will be secured by improving the qualities of the teachers and by raising their status. It is needless to paint in dark colours the plight of teachers in our country. It ought to be the aim of educational policy to attract the best men to the profession who are imbued by a high sense of devotion. The teacher must be inspired by missionary zeal and educational reconstruction should pay equal attention to the qualities of the teacher no less than to the progress of the pupils. There is no dispute whatever that the teachers are entitled to a fair deal if we are to build up a class of contented and high minded members of this noble profession.

In this connection, I am happy to note that at present both the Government and the public have a better realisation of the place of teachers in our national life, and of the need for improving their pay, and conditions of service. The State Government has now provided pensions for the elementary school teachers and in course of time these benefits will naturally be extended to the other classes of the teaching profession. The discontent and the sense of frustration that may have prevailed among teachers till now should rapidly disappear if advance in the sphere of education is to be attained. The report of the Secondary Education Committee over which the distinguished Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University presided has dealt with this question in some detail and has made very definite proposals for improving the condition and the status of teachers. I have no doubt that both Government and managements will see their way to adopt the valuable recommendations of this Committee. The authorities of the Universities and University teachers in particular have to acknowledge with gratitude the generous provision made by the University Grants Commission with a view to raise the scales of pay of the University teachers. I am sure that the prospects for the teaching profession will be brighter in the coming years.

A question which has often caused confusion in the public mind is the place of the language in the scheme of studies. Many conflicting opinions have been expressed in the past but I think now there is a growing realisation that English should be retained as a subject of compulsory study from the lower secondary stage. The proposals of the White Paper recommending this step is one which I heartily approve. It must be admitted that English, as an international language does occupy a high place in our national life and that considerable advantages are derived by the Nation. It is unnecessary to cast away so great an advantage which we now possess. I am also of opinion that for raising the standard of education in general the study of this international language is important. Even those who have been critical of the adoption of English in the lower secondary stage have now come to realise that it will be a good thing to have it as a subject of compulsory study. The mother tongue will no doubt and must remain the medium of instruction in the elementary and secondary stages of edu-

cation leading at an early stage to its adoption as the medium of instruction for higher education as well. The wisdom of having the mother tongue as the medium of instruction at all stages of education and of utilising the full resources of English will be realised with the passage of years. The mother tongue will by the impact of English be enriched and will prove a valuable vehicle for the diffusion of knowledge and culture among the people. There seems to be a feeling that Hindi should also be studied as a compulsory subject in the lower secondary stage, but I do not know if it will be really wise to make it compulsory though I have no hesitation to recommend that every facility and encouragement should be given for its study as an optional subject. In the long run the study of Hindi as an optional subject will be a good achievement while its compulsion will provoke needless strife and controversy.

Before concluding, let me state that it has not been my intention to deal with all the important problems which will come before you to be discussed. Let me also repeat that the need of the hour is to provide education for enlightened citizenship. This Conference has the high responsibility of giving a lead for the shaping of the policy of education in the future. I have every confidence that your experience and your knowledge would be of the utmost service to the State at the present moment and that out of your deliberations there will emerge proposals which will commend themselves to the public. It is a matter for congratulation that the State Government and in particular our Minister for Education are following an enlightened policy before framing their final proposals for educational re-organisation. Let us remember that in making these proposals we must maintain what has been beneficial in the present scheme of studies and add to it what is valuable from the wisdom and experience of our own times. Let changes in education be in gradual and measured stages and I am sure that this Conference and its deliberations will mark a great stage in the progress of education in our State and thereby will promote the lasting advantage of our people. I have the utmost pleasure in inaugurating this Conference and wishing it all success.

Then Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan, President of the S.I.T.U., proposing Sri S. Natarajan, president-elect to the chair, referred to the various problems of education awaiting solution and pointed out how Sri S. Natarajan's guidance at the moment would be of the utmost importance and help to the Union and the country. The proposition was seconded by Sri A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar, Vice-President of the S.I.T.U., and supported by Sri V. Antoniswamy of Karaikudi, and Sri P. R. Subramania Iyer of Kollengode. Sri S. Natarajan was then given the insignia of office and he took the chair amidst cheers. Then he delivered his presidential address (published in the May 1956 issue of the South Indian Teacher).

The Director of Public Instruction, Sri N. D. Sundaravadivelu, was then requested to address the delegates.

He stated that in all educational matters there was need for calm thinking and discussion. There was no need, he said, to be apologetic about the backwardness of our people in the matter of education. What they should be more concerned with was building up of character. They had to take into account the fact that a large class of children today went without education because their parents could not afford to give them any education. People were concerned with raising the age of admission. Parents of poor children felt that it was inadvisable for them to keep their children in schools for any length of time, and so it would help them if their children were admitted at an early age and given sufficient education for life up to nine or ten years of age.

Continuing he pointed out that there were, in this State, as many as 23,000 lower elementary schools. It was asked by many people why they should cut away even one standard from these schools depriving the children of that quantum of education. In respect of higher elementary schools, of which there were nearly 2,000 in this State, he desired that the standard of education now obtaining should be maintained. It was for them to consider all these aspects and take public opinion into consideration in evolving any scheme. They could ill-afford to ignore the opinion of the vast majority of the people on the ground that they were either uneducated or ill-informed. The appointment of L.T.'s for the Eighth standard in higher elementary schools and provision of greater facilities in them had also to be seriously considered by the Government, if people in rural areas were to have the same opportunity of education as people in urban areas. The Director also stated that no scheme of education would bear fruit without the willing co-operation of the public. He concluded by saying that the position of the members of the teaching profession and the efforts made by them should also be borne in mind and the public should be prepared to support them.

Sri T. E. Santhanam, Secretary, Reception Committee read the messages received from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, His Excellency Shri Sri Prakasa, His Excellency Sri P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja, His Excellency Sri B. Pattabi Sitaramayya, the Hon'ble Sri K. Hanumanthayya, the Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty, the Hon'ble Sri M. Bhakthavathsalam, the Hon'ble Sri S. S. Ramaswami Padayachi, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. V. Rajamannar, Sri V. R. Ramanatha Iyer, His Holiness Srimad Swami Kailasanandaji Maharaj, Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dr. R. M. Alagappa Chettiar, Sri K. Srinivasan, Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Sri V. R. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Sir C. V. Raman, Sri S. Govindarajulu, Srimad Swami Chidbhavananda, Sri D. H. Sahasrabudhe, Sri K. S. Ramaswami Sastrigal, and the General Secretary, All Bengal Teachers' Association, and Sri T. G. Krishnamurthi.

With a vote of thanks to Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai, Sri T. Purushothama Mudaliar, to the Director of Public Instruction, to the Chairman of the Reception Committee and others proposed by Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan and Sri V. Arunajatai, the first session of the Conference was over.

ADMINISTRATION, ORGANISATION AND TEACHER EDUCATION SECTION

Chairman :

Sri A. S. Johnson, Headmaster, St. Columbas High School, Chingleput.

Convener :

Sri C. M. Fazalur Rahman, Headmaster, Islamiah High School, Pernambat, North Arcot.

The Administration, Organisation and Teacher-Education section of the 46th Madras State Educational Conference met at 2-30 p.m. on Monday the 14th May, 1956 in the Conference pandal. Sri C. M. Fazalur Rahman, the Convener, welcomed the delegates.

Sri A. S. Johnson in his address gave an exhaustive survey of the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission with regard to the need for the reorganisation of the Inspectorate. He emphasised how the work at all stages has multiplied and said that that was the cause of making inspection unreal. Besides, inspection is more feared than welcomed. He endorsed the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission in this regard. He also referred to the relevant suggestion made by the International Team of Experts on Secondary Education.

Speaking on the Management's role in the new set-up, Sri Johnson emphasised the need for the continued existence of aided schools in view of

the significant part they play in the cause of education.

Sri Johnson also explained what is meant by 'In-service training' and said that the teachers should develop the right approach to these refresher courses, seminars, etc. He also explained how professional growth can be ensured by teachers co-operating among themselves in learning and adopting the new techniques. For the success of this, what is required is eagerness to learn.

Sri G. Srinivasachari spoke on 'Re-organisation of Inspectorate'. He said that good teachers will do good work always, whether their work is supervised or not. So, should there be any inspection at all? Inspection will always be a little irksome. An efficient headmaster ensures good work by the teachers. But yet inspection is a necessary evil. Because of the increasing administrative responsibilities of the headmasters, they are not able to effectively supervise. But the inspectors should be recruited with care. They should be men of real worth. They should have had the three-fold experience of a teacher, of a headmaster for administrative training and of a lecturer in the training college. They should be given a higher status and salary.

Sri A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar said that it was a drama that was enacted at the time of inspection. Normal and useful work is completely dislocated. Enumerating the defects of the present system of inspection, he said that the inspectors are so very much overburdened with administrative details that they are unable to find the time to look more carefully into the academic side of the school work. Further, their judgment does not give a true picture of the work done. In fact it is warped on account of extraneous influences. There seems to be a wrong notion that the inspector comes only to judge and not to guide and help suggesting improvements. He endorsed fully the suggestions given by Sri G. Srinivasachari. He added that the Inspectors should be above 40 years and that the number of schools to be inspected by an Inspector should be considerably reduced. An Inspector should be assisted by an advisory body of four or five experienced headmasters. He further said that there should be no remark in the Inspection Report which has not been discussed with the headmaster and the concerned teacher.

Sri M. Rajah Iyer said that inspection is an essential part of the administration in any scheme of education; otherwise complacency, indifference and deterioration will set in. The Inspector should come as an Educational Advisor. He made out a strong case for the abolition of the high bound inspection code. The Inspector should play the role of a consultant and collaborator. It is not necessary that each school should be inspected every year. Experienced teachers should be recruited as Inspectors.

Dr. C. Nathamuni Naidu, Correspondent, the Hindu High School, Ambur, North Arcot, speaking on the management's role in the new set-up was highly critical of the meagre allotments for education in the Five-Year Plan. He emphasised that Education should be the first charge on the State Budget.

Dr. Naidu was emphatic that a contented teacher is an essential factor in the successful implementation of any educational reform. He also criticised managements which did not treat the teacher properly and did not also pay them regularly and adequately. In this connection he appealed to teachers to shed their inferiority complex and assert themselves to safeguard their self-respect and interest.

Dr. Naidu wanted the immediate abolition of the present system of inspection which is neither helpful nor useful. He appealed to the teachers to inculcate a sense of discipline in the minds of the pupils. He said that

taking in view the great services rendered by the privately managed schools and their requirements, he said that the ceiling on building grant of Rs. 35,000 should be liberalised and fixed at least at Rs. 75,000. He emphasised the need for midday meals to the poor children in schools.

Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan, President of the South India Teachers' Union, speaking on management's role in the new set-up said, that in Madras there is happy co-operation between the South India Teachers' Union and the State Aided Secondary School Managements' Association. He emphasised the need for the continued existence of the Aided Secondary Schools. It is there that experiments are possible. They are better staffed and produce better results. A majority of secondary schools in our State are aided schools. Government should encourage such schools and should not interfere with their internal administration. He pleaded for a human element in the relationship between the management and the teachers.

Sri V. B. Murthi did not agree with those who maintained that the aided schools would continue for ever. He referred to the tendencies now visible in the State policy towards achieving a socialistic pattern of society and said that education was bound to become free and that midday meals, text books and other amenities would be provided to the students. When such rapid improvements come, he said, the State might find it cheaper to take over all schools than give them aid and that, of course, some aided schools, provided they have sufficient resources and agree to conform to the State regulations, might have to be permitted to exist.

Sri V. Anthoniswamy made out a very strong case for the continued existence of the private sector in secondary education and said that bad managements may be penalised severely. He suggested that there should be a seminar for managers of aided secondary schools to enable them to learn the techniques of better management.

Rev. D. Thambusami speaking on Teacher-Education suggested that every higher elementary grade trained teacher should have to be replaced by a secondary grade trained teacher. A teacher —a higher elementary grade trained teacher—in the remote and rural parts is inadequately prepared and equipped to play the role of a friend, philosopher and guide he is expected to be. But the existing teachers of that grade may be given regular training and their efficiency increased. He also suggested the banning of the higher elementary grade training. He said that training colleges should be residential as the trainees coming out of such institutions are better equipped for the work. He recommended that teacher education should be under one agency and that should be under the university. He also suggested that pupils admitted to training schools run by religious institutions should be required to possess minimum general educational qualifications.

Sri B. A. Iswaran of Trichy in his paper on management's role in the new set up—which could not be read for want of time—defined the term 'management' and said that managements should not depend upon government's grant and that teachers should be given partnership in management. The teachers' organisation should be united and effective so as to command the respect of the management. The teachers should not be ousted from service even after three months' notice.

The Convener, Sri C. M. Fazlur Rahman, then proposed a hearty vote of thanks and the meeting terminated at 6-30 p.m.

SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SECTION

Chairman :

Sri M. Rajah Iyer, Headmaster, Rajah's High School, Ramanathapuram.

Convener :

Sri A. V. Sundaresa Iyer, Headmaster, A.G. Jain High School, Madras.

The secondary and technical education section met at 8-30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 15th May, 1956 under the chairmanship of Sri M. Rajah Iyer who in the course of his presidential address observed that secondary education was an important terminal stage by istelf and that it should not be considered merely as a preparatory stage for higher education.

The crux of the problem of secondary education is how to ensure quality in the face of the huge quantitative increase in secondary schools in recent years. The fundamental reason for the Secondary Education Commission to make its recommendation for a four-year higher secondary school course is that the additional year was necessary to equip the candidate leaving the secondary school better. This was confused with the parallel provision for a three year degree course as though the main if not the sole reason for the addition of the extra year to Secondary education was to save one year to the university stage. The South India Teachers' Union, he said, was repeatedly affirming that the extra year was intended for those who enter life and whose interest alone forms the *raison d'etre* of the proposed extension of the school course.

He expressed agreement with the recommendation of the Government in their White Paper for a pattern of seven years of elementary education and four years of secondary education instead of eight and three as obtaining at present and the provision of the VIII standard course known as the Higher Elementary School Course to round off the education and prepare for life those who stop with elementary education. He also referred to the suggestion made for the rounding off course being identical with the VIII standard course of secondary education so that on completion of the same, pupils may be admitted into the IX standard if they so desire. He said, that he had no objection for such a course provided the elementary schools preparing for the VIII standard were provided not only with an additional graduate teacher but possessed adequate facilities in the shape of library, laboratory, playground, etc.

Referring to the fear of retrenchment felt by elementary school teachers consequent on the reduction of one year in the elementary school course and the secondary grade teachers with two year higher elementary school course of VI and VII standards, he pointed out that their fears were groundless.

In respect of the mental maturity of pupils for secondary and higher education, he recommended 6 plus for the beginning of systematic elementary education, 13 plus for secondary education and 17 plus for university education. He pleaded for the appointment of Secondary grade teachers in all elementary schools. He also desired the opening of pre-primary classes of one or two years duration.

In regard to the higher secondary course, he said, that opting for the diversified courses should be at the IX standard and that there should be no rigidity about choice. He then commended the suggestion of the Government to have central multipurpose institutions and said that it should be carried out overcoming all practical difficulties.

Sri A. V. Sundaresan, Headmaster, Shri A. G. Jain High School, Madras and Convener of the Secondary and Technical Education section who next spoke initiating the discussion, dwelt on the need for and purpose of multi-pur-

pose schools and the relation between general and technical education in the multi-purpose school.

Sri P. Rathnaswamy, A. C. High School, Pallathur, spoke on the defects in the matter of instruction in craft in secondary schools and pleaded for its improvement.

Rev. D. Thambusami, Headmaster, Kellett High School, Triplicane, said that the duration of the elementary school course should be 5 plus 2 and not 4 plus 3, for, if it should be the latter, as many as 25,000 teachers would be thrown out of employment. He added that education should commence at the age of 5 in accordance with the tradition in our country. In respect of the bifurcated courses he was of the opinion that they had not been properly framed so as to prepare the pupils for vocation when they left the school.

Sri J. Vaidyanathan of Sri Ramakrishna Mission High School, Theagarayanagar, pointed out that reorganisation which began with the University downwards was topsy turvy and that it should have been carried out in the reverse direction and pleaded for Secondary Education being as autonomous as the University Education. While Secondary schools may have 200 working days, he was for less number of working days for the Elementary schools.

Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar pleaded for the speeding up of reorganisation and wanted various managements to put their heads together and devise ways and means of implementing the schemes of reorganisation in their respective localities, in a spirit of co-operation, to avoid overlapping of bifurcated courses.

Sri P. R. Subramania Iyer, Headmaster, Rajah's High School, Kollengode, pleaded for accepting most of the recommendations of the White Paper, as they had been made in a spirit of compromise with a view to end controversy and go on with the schemes of reorganisation.

Sri T. N. Sundaram, Headmaster, Theagarayanagar High School, said that diversified courses should begin at the beginning of the IX and not the X Standard. In view of the longer duration of the diversified courses in the multi-purpose schools of the future, necessary steps should be taken to remedy the defects of some of the present diversified courses and improvements effected in such a manner as to enable the pupils to attain a higher standard.

Sri V. Arunajatai, Secretary, the S.I.T.U., while appreciating the modern approach to diversified courses, *viz.*, that the intellectual and cultural development of different individuals take place best through a variety of media, said that mere provision of opportunities was not enough but that the proper planning of the facilities was necessary, for otherwise, there would be a glut of trained personnel leading to unemployment. Although the idea of diversified courses as media of expression was good, in the multi-purpose schools the aim should be also to fit the pupil to the vocation. He wanted that students should get some training in regard to small-scale industries. The multi-purpose schools should provide greater facilities for part-time work.

Sri G. Sundaram Iyer, Headmaster, Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Chidambaram, said that the VIII Standard course should be a general course and that the multi-purpose course should be spread over three years. He pleaded for the quick introduction of the reorganised scheme.

Sri R. Mahadevan, Municipal High School, Mayuram, said that the different view points of the teachers, pupils, State and parents will have to be co-ordinated in evolving the reorganised scheme of education.

Sri G. Jayanathan of Nagapattinam, pleaded for conversion of a larger number of high schools into multi-pur-

pose schools than what is contemplated at present.

Sri Neelamegham, Librarian, Madras Medical College, read a paper on high school libraries. He dwelt on the need for a trained librarian and the careful selection of books and magazines, the provision of a spacious and well furnished room for the library and adopting ways and means to attract pupils to the library. He also suggested the methods for pupils' participation in various library activities in which the co-operation of the teachers with the librarian is extremely important. He then dwelt with guidance in reading and co-operation with the local educational and similar agencies. He referred also to the recent improvements in the United States to make the future citizens of the country science conscious. He then posed some of the problems facing us in the matter of school libraries, viz., paucity of children's books, and magazines and children's libraries. In conclusion he appealed to the delegates to persuade the Education Department and school authorities to provide each and every school with a well-equipped and well-organised library and put it in charge of a fully qualified librarian and treat him as one with them in the matter of salary and status and extend to him full co-operation in all the matters referred to above.

Sri M. Vivekananda, Headmaster, Madras Progressive Union High School, then spoke on equipping science laboratories in high schools for teaching of Science in a practical way. He pointed that the present system of theory and practical classes for the teaching of Science need not be had in water-tight compartments but the subject must be taught in a practical way in the laboratory itself and the school must have a Science room specially equipped for that purpose.

Sri A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar, Headmaster, Pachiappas High School, Kancheepuram, referred to the matter of equipping libraries and laboratories in its widest score and said that it should consist of a full and detailed consideration of the following five items, *viz.*, accommodation, equipment in regard to furniture, employment of a qualified full time librarian and securing the co-operation of enthusiastic teachers.

Sri S. S. Avadhaniyar, said that in the multi-purpose schools special attention must be paid to mat-making, coir-making, leaves plainting, etc., and thereby an impetus should be given to cottage industries.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks by the convenor.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SECTION

Chairman :

Sri A. Srinivasaraghavan, Principal, V. O. C. College, Tuticorin.

Convener :

Sri G. N. Seshadri, Lecturer, Vivekananda College, Mylapore, Madras.

The sectional conference met at 10-30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 16th May, 1956, in the Conference pandal.

Sri G. N. Seshadri, the Convener, welcomed the Chairman and the delegates and initiated the discussion on the following topics : (1) Pre-University course and its relationship to the High School Course ; (2) the medium of instruction in colleges ; and (3) the three-year degree course.

Prof. A. Srinivasaraghavan in his opening speech said that the pre-University course would be introduced during the coming academic year within a month or two. Some have objected to the haste with which it is being

introduced. It was stated for instance, that some colleges were not yet ready for the change. Though he was not speaking there as the accredited representative of the University, he could assure them that the University was thoroughly satisfied that all the Arts Colleges in the University area were ready to take up the new course. The University of Madras had the reputation of being a very conservative body and could be depended on to give enough time for arrangements and preparations in this behalf. He knew that the University had done all it could to give due publicity to the new scheme and enable the colleges (constituent and affiliated) to take up the new course.

The pre-University course, he pointed out, was designed as a connecting link between the High School and the College, and considering the manner in which the syllabus had been framed, he had no doubt whatever that it would serve the purpose of a necessary preparatory course. Regarding the medium of instruction he was strongly of the opinion that the mother tongue must be accepted as the medium at all stages of education.

Mr. K. P. Amritham Iyer, in the course of his speech said that no objection could be levelled against the proposed pre-University course so long as it really served as a bridge to enable the students to cross the gulf between the S.S.L.C. and the three-year degree course. He was inclined to think that the syllabus is overweighted and he doubted whether it would be practicable to cover the entire syllabus satisfactorily in the course of one year, particularly in view of the fact that the studies included subjects of a comprehensive scope like World History.

Mr. S. Natarajan, speaking on the medium of instruction said that steps should be taken forthwith to switch over to the regional language. In his opinion the arguments against the adoption of the regional language as the medium of instruction related to administrative difficulties which were not insurmountable.

Mr. G. N. Seshadri said that the three-year degree course was to be welcomed since it eliminated the evils of over-specialisation which vitiated the old three-year Honours course and the B.Sc. course. By making the study of English and another language (classical or modern) compulsory for both B.A. and B.Sc. students, and by laying proportionate emphasis on the humanities as well as the Sciences, the new three-year degree course has been rendered more balanced and culturally far more satisfying than the degree courses of the past.

Mr. T. N. Sundaram pointed out that the interest of candidates appearing for the Secretarial course should be safeguarded in the new scheme of education.

Mr. V. Antoniswamy emphasized the importance of retaining English as the medium of instruction in college classes.

Mr. Sankaran drew attention to the ambitious nature of the syllabus laid down in the new scheme. Messrs. Kasturirangan, Manavalan and Avadhaniyar also participated in the conference.

With a vote of thanks the meeting came to an end.

PRIMARY AND BASIC EDUCATION SECTION

Chairman :

Sri V. S. Gopalakrishna Iyer, Headmaster, Sir M. Ct. M. C. High School, Purasawalkam, Madras.

Convener :

Mrs. Saraswathy Srinivasan, Headmistress, Senior Basic Training School, Adyar, Madras.

The Sectional Conference on Primary and Basic Education was held at 2-30 p.m. on 15-5-'56.

At the outset, Mr. C. Renganatha Iyengar introduced the Chairman and the Convener of the Sectional Conference to the delegates.

Mr. V. S. Gopalakrishna Iyer in his opening address thanked the S.I.T.U. for having done the honour of asking him to preside over the Primary and Basic Education Section of the Conference. He stated that since Basic Education was the accepted policy of the Centre and the State, the problem before the Government now was how best to change the existing Elementary Schools to the Basic Pattern. He pointed out that the main criticism against Basic Education has been the introduction of productive craft work in the early stages of education. On this problem the Government have already accepted the recommendations of the Alagappa Chettiar Elementary Education Committee that the productive craft may begin from Standard III and that in the first two Standards there will be provision for activities without the present emphasis on productive craft. As regards the other criticism against Basic Education that great emphasis is laid on spinning and weaving alone, the Government have realised this defect and have recommended in the White Paper that agriculture and gardening may also form one of the crafts in Basic Schools.

He added that before converting the schools into Basic Schools, equipment and trained personnel are very essential and for this he commended the steps proposed to be taken by the State to start model Basic Schools attached to District Board Schools and assured that the steps will prove a success. Moreover he was of the opinion that the conversion of the existing Elementary Schools into Basic Schools should be spread over a number of years. But in the meantime nothing prevents the managements of schools to incorporate the good features of basic education in their schools even from now.

One important thing that the Chairman pointed out was the care that should be exercised in regulating the number of teachers who are to receive Basic training. He differed from the proposal of the Government to increase the pupil-teacher ratio from 20 : 1 to 40 : 1 and said that it was a step not in the right direction. He stated that this step will adversely affect the efficiency and discipline in schools.

As regards the integrated course of seven years, he pleaded that this proposal can be accepted. He appreciated the wisdom of the Government in providing the eighth year course, Higher Elementary school final course, for those who do not go to the secondary school by which alone the Constitutional Directive to give free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 could be implemented. He added that he was disappointed to find that no mention has been made in the White Paper with regard to the increase in the salary of Elementary School teachers. He urged that teachers should press this demand further.

Speaking on the age of admission to the Elementary Schools that has been fixed at 5½ plus, he agreed with this point. He concluded by saying that only Secondary Grade trained teachers and pandits should be permitted to handle classes in an Elementary School from Class 4 onwards.

Mrs. Saraswathy Srinivasan, the Convener, then initiated the discussion.

She, in agreeing with the recommendations of the Elementary Education Committee that the productive craft should be commenced only from the 3rd standard, stated that the principles of craft and the activities method can be introduced in the first two standards. She also added that the aspect of self-sufficiency should not be insisted upon.

About the delay in the conversion of existing schools into Basic Schools, she was of the opinion that want of trained personnel is given as an excuse. This can be overcome by giving retraining to the existing teachers in Basic Educational methods in the existing Training Schools. One major defect that stands in the way of the spread of Basic Education, she pointed out with regret, was due to the fact that some of the officers appear to be still in doubt regarding the feasibility of Basic Education. They devote themselves to it merely in the spirit of carrying out orders imposed from above. She pleaded for a more flexible syllabus in Basic Education to suit the environment, locality and changing times instead of a rigid syllabus. She also emphasized that the quality of training in the retraining courses should be of such a nature as to make the retrainees understand the real principles of Basic Education and how the activity method can bring about better results and how a particular craft which is familiar in a locality can be utilised to impart practical correlation, as at present the retrainees coming out of training merely talk of only cooking, cleaning and spinning in a Basic Training School. She pleaded that a child of five years should not be kept idle till the attainment of 5½ years. She pointed out that they should introduce one section as Pre-Basic section for children within 5½ years so that they might be kept engaged and thus be trained for the school entry, and that the State should make provision for aiding such Pre-basic sections also.

Mr. Arunachalam of Tirumangalam, who was one of the members of the Alagappa Chettiar Committee regretted that so far as Elementary Education was concerned, nothing has been done for the last 10 years to increase the standard of attainment of knowledge in the three R's. He laid stress on the education in the rural and village parts and wanted that any action that is to be taken regarding Elementary Education should be to improve the schools in the villages and rural parts.

Mr. Mahadevan of Mayavaram pleaded that the responsibility of introducing Free and Compulsory education to eradicate illiteracy should be the responsibility of the Centre instead of the State and that they should chalk out a definite plan to improve literacy in the country in a particular number of years. He pointed out that there had been agitations and demand from all quarters and parents that there should be improvement in the standard of education but there had not been any such agitation to improve the lot of the teachers by the levying of some education cess or tax for the purpose.

Miss Malathy of Idakad, North Malabar, then addressed the conference. During her speech, she stressed the need for free and compulsory education for children in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution without any discrimination, whether rich or poor. Such of those parents who refuse to send their children to school should be penalised. She deprecated the idea of determining the age limit for school entry as the completion of the age of 5 on the Republic Day. This will be a hard hit on children who are born a few days after the Republic Day. She therefore appealed that children of age 5 plus can be admitted into schools. For working class people's children creche or some Nursery or Pre-Basic section could be started by the Community Development Department or National Extension Development Department if the State could not pay grants to the same section.

Mr. Srinivasan of Katpadi supported the ideals of Basic Education but he

was of the opinion that if Basic Education should be a success the State should take over all the Elementary schools in the State from the various managements and only Graduate trained teachers should be put in charge of Basic Schools.

Mr. Pasupathy of Kurnool stated that it was no use criticising the Basic pattern of Education. Our leaders who were the sponsors of this pattern were not blind to the urgency of introducing Basic Education and Compulsory Education in the country. They were aware of the urgency of the needs of the country as far as Basic Education is concerned. He was of the opinion that only Basic Education can do much to shape the future citizens of India. The teachers should come forward with a missionary spirit to learn the system as early as possible for the sake of National improvement and take up the sacred mission of spreading this system.

Mr. Avadhani also spoke.

The Chairman in his concluding speech felt glad to note that there was unanimity of opinion in regard to the proposal for the gradual conversion of the existing Elementary schools into Basic schools spread over a period of years and that elementary education should be an integrated course of seven years ; he was also glad to note that the opinion of the teachers that secondary education should be for a period of 4 years, was unanimous. He pointed out that the proposal to have a Pre-Basic Section or a nursery section for children before attaining the age 5½ was a sound one and hoped that the State would make provision for the same as children could not be kept idle till the age of admission into the 1st standard.

With a vote of thanks by the convener, the conference closed.

Sri S. D. Krishnamurthi Rao then made a statement on the present position regarding the S.I.T.U. Protection Fund consequent on the Fund having been taken over by Government.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Chairman :

Sri V. S. Gopalakrishna Iyer, Headmaster, Sir M. Ct. M. C. High School, Madras.

Convener :

Sri N. Venkatachalam Iyengar, Headmaster, P. M. Higher Elementary School, Kulasekharapatnam.

The Elementary School Teachers' Conference met at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th May, 1956, in the Conference pandal in the Ramakrishna Vidyalaya Girls High School, Chingleput.

Sri N. Venkatachalam Iyengar, the Convener, initiated the discussion on the recommendations of the Alagappa Committee Report and the White Paper on Education. He stated that Elementary Education should be of seven standards. He was of opinion that the age of admission should be six years with provision for preparatory classes for children of five years and below. He stressed that the IV and V Standards should be handled by Secondary Grade teachers.

Sri D. Sebastian of Karaikudi and Vice-President of the Ramnad District Teachers' Guild, stressed that experienced Higher Grade teachers should be allowed to handle IV and V Standards and that facilities should be given to the present Higher Grade teachers to qualify themselves as Secondary Grade teachers.

Sri G. Jayanathan of Nagapattinam dwelt in detail clause by clause on the White Paper on Education. He feared that the number of working days would be increased and said that it should not be done. He said that the pupil-teacher ratio should be 30 : 1 and it should not exceed 30.

Sri N. S. Venkatesan of Mannargudi appealed for the unity of teachers.

The President concluded the session with the hope that the ideas expressed by the teachers would be accepted and that the final course would be drawn up in accordance with those views.

With a vote of thanks by the Convener the conference came to an end.

SABHESAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Sabhesan Memorial Lecture which forms a significant item in the opening day programme of every year's State Educational Conference came off on the evening of the 14th May, 1956 in the Conference Hall at Chingleput. Prof. A. Srinivasaraghavan, Principal, V. O. C. College, Tuticorin, delivered the lecture.

Sri S. Natarajan, the President of the Conference, said that Sri Sabhesan was greatly responsible for building up the South India Teachers' Union in close co-operation with the late Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer. Together they placed before teachers the highest ideals of the profession and it was on account of theii leadership and guidance that the Union was strong and able to command confidence and respect. Sri Natarajan recalled Principal Srinivasaraghavan's friendship and association with the late M. S. Sebhesan and said that he (the Professor) was eminently fitted to deliver the address.

Sri Srinivasaraghavan speaking in Tamil paid a glowing tribute to the life and work and ideals of the late Sri Sabhesan. His association with Sabhesan, Sri Srinivasaraghavan said, began some 21 years ago, when he went to attend the Anantapur Educational Conference. He was impressed with the ardour of Sabhesan in working for the Union and in conserving all the energies and resources for the good of the Union. Sabhesan travelled even long distances in third class, sometimes not being able to secure even sitting accommodation, to address conferences. He spent much time and energy in working for the teachers' cause and it was that selfless work of the great soul that built the Union to what it is to-day.

Mr. Srinivasaraghavan referred to the critical times that faced the Union in the year 1947 when the resolution to go on strike was brought at the meeting of the Executive Board of the South India Teachers' Union. Mr. Sabhesan and he (the lecturer) felt that, apart from the merits of teachers resorting to strikes, the Union had not gathered enough strength or financial resources to launch upon a programme of State-wide strike. But the upsurge of the feeling was so great that all the influence the speakers were able to exert was of no avail. And so at the meeting attended by over 600 delegates a stormy discussion took place at the end of which an action committee was formed and the late Sabhesan chose the speaker for the dictatorship. Sri Srinivasaraghavan said that he felt diffident to shoulder the responsibility as he thought that the rank and file would and could not hold out for a long time. He impressed upon the delegates the need for the teachers doing nothing to bring down the prestige of the Union. The late Sabhesan's one main thought at that time was that the great institution built with such care and thought, day in and day out, should not be wrecked. His one dream was to build up the Union and make it grow to the zenith of its glory.

The late Sabhesan's sense of responsibility and fairness were so great that whenever any complaint was taken up before him by teachers or teachers' associations for representation to the higher authorities, his first question always was whether they were not at fault. His was not the policy of supporting the teachers' cause at any cost. He wanted to sift the truth and his

advice always was that teachers should be above board and should command esteem by virtue of their spotless character and worth.

Sri Sabhesan was a great botanist, a great scientist, and as all scientists are, he believed that obstacles are there to be faced and overcome.

Sri Srinivasaraghavan observed that we must have the faith that in Education lies the remedy for all the evils of the world. Greater and better education would make the world better and would improve society. The world is an arena for man's perseverence, for practice of love and affection and dharma which are the ways to the attainment of bliss. And for this fruit of bliss Education is the root or the seed.

Sri Srinivasaraghavan concluded his address by referring once again to the faith of the late Sri Sabhesan in the Union and in unity and co-operation among teachers. He recalled the motto of the Union, " Raise Yourself by Your Own Efforts ", and exhorted the teachers to work not merely for improving their salary scales but also for building up an honour and reputation worthy of the noble calling they had undertaken. He ended by saying " Let us this day pay homage to the late Sri Sabhesan and follow the ideals he always set before teachers."

With a vote of thanks by Sri S. Natarajan the meeting terminated.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

The Second General Session of the Conference commenced at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th May, 1956, with Sri S. Natarajan in the chair.

The reports of the two sectional conferences—the Secondary and Technical Education Section and the Administration, Organisation and Teacher-Education Section—were presented by the conveners of the respective sections. They were approved.

WORKERS' MEETING

A meeting of the workers of the South India Teachers' Union came off at 8-30 p.m. on the 15th May, 1956, in the Conference pandal.

The need for augmenting the resources of the Union, the need for beginning intensive work in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Union to be celebrated in 1958 and the consequences of the States Reorganisation scheme as far as the Union work is concerned, were the three main points discussed.

For finding even absolutely the minimum financial resource that was needed to run the Union with its multifarious activities, it was agreed that there was no other way except to enhance the affiliation fee. In addition to the delegation fee each association should also make it an obligatory duty to send Re. 1 towards the cost of supply of the Report of the proceedings of the Conference. Also, the District Guilds that are likely to be separated consequent on the States Reorganisation proposal should pay their proportionate affiliation fee. Only if money was forthcoming in these ways, could the Union effectively carry on its routine work.

As regards the Golden Jubilee Building Fund, it was agreed that appeals for donations should be made to individuals, associations and district guilds and the public.

The following suggestion was put forward to mobilise all teaching forces now working as limbs of the S.I.T.U., in case the States Reorganisation proposals took definite shape and affiliated associations had to leave the parent body.

Malabar and South Kanara should organise their own associations on sound and proper lines. A Federation of State Associations called the South India Federation of Educational Associations could be formed. This could have an executive consisting of two or three representatives from each State Association. Each State Association would retain its own individuality and carry on its day to day work as hitherto, but the Federation could meet once in two years to discuss common problems.

With the suggestion that the President and the Secretary of the S.I.T.U., be authorised to open exploratory correspondence the Workers' Meeting came to an end.

CONFERENCE OF HEADMASTER-DELEGATES

Chairman :

Sri M. K. Natarajan, Headmaster, National High School, Mayuram.

Convener :

Sri T. N. Sundaram, Headmaster, Theagarayanagar High School, Madras.

The Headmaster-delegates met in a sectional conference at 10-30 a.m. on Tuesday the 15th May 1956, in the Conference pandal at Chingleput.

In the absence of Mr. T. V. Arumugam, the Chairman, Mr. M. K. Natarajan was requested to take the chair. In welcoming the delegates, Mr. T. N. Sundaram, the Convener, observed that this was the first time in the history of the State Educational Conference that headmasters met in a sectional conference and discussed their administrative problems. He pointed out that in the present context of the reorganization of education, it was highly necessary that they should consider how best they could discharge their responsibilities in the new set up. He requested the delegates to discuss among other things three important problems namely, (i) the scope and possibility of the central workshop in relation to the diversified courses ; (ii) the reconstitution of the Board of Secondary Education with statutory powers to consider and grant recognition to schools and examine all changes in the rules and regulations of the M.E.R. and G.A.C. before they are issued by the Department to schools ; and (iii) the need for adequate publicity in regard to grants made with central aid for various new courses and for a phased programme in the distribution of these grants so that the schools which really need them might get the benefit.

He then commended the idea of central workshop in a locality with several schools adopting multipurpose courses. It would on the one hand prevent the frittering away of funds in building separate workshops for each of the schools and on the other secure a well equipped workshop commanding the most up-to-date machines and appliances. Permanent equipment would have to be provided entirely by the Government, while recurring expenditure could be shared by the participating schools from year to year.

Mr. M. K. Natarajan then addressed the conference. He observed that the Headmaster's job had become too complex a routine to allow any time for academic work. He then urged the need for devolution of authority to and sharing of responsibility with the Assistant Headmaster so that his administrative load might be reduced. This would give the Headmaster more time for planning the school programme and making his guidance and

supervision real and effective. He said that in the matter of staffing of schools in the new set up, teachers who are only B.A., L.T.'s but have more than ten years experience must be permitted to teach the XI standard, though it may be desirable to recruit a few M.A., L.T.'s in future. He also pleaded for the provincialisation of the services of headmasters so far as municipalities are concerned.

Mr. G. Sundaram of Chidambaram pointed out that the Headmasters had a very important role to play in the shaping of the school and that they should share this work with the assistants.

Mr. M. Vivekananda of Madras referred to certain difficulties experienced in the administration of special fees accounts. He also pointed out that the rule prohibiting B.Sc.'s from teaching English in the higher forms is not only an injustice done to them but also a handicap to the Headmaster in assigning work and forming the time-table.

Addressing the Headmasters, Mr. S. Natarajan, the President of the Conference, said that the administrative responsibilities of Headmasters seemed to outweigh their other functions in the school. In fact they were too much absorbed in the administrative work to pay any regard to their primary role of leadership of the staff. This state of affairs should change and to that end it was necessary for the Headmasters to take their teachers into confidence and draw up the programme of the school in consultation and after discussion with them. The Headmasters should also entrust the responsibility for many of the administrative aspects of school organization to the teachers and trust them to discharge those functions well. Though the Headmasters were ultimately responsible to the Government and the Managing Body, it should not prevent them from devolving administrative power to the members of the staff. That would develop among the teachers a sense of confidence and a sense of belonging to the school and this would help them in shouldering the responsibility for school work.

It is again the duty of the Headmasters to create a certain amount of public opinion in favour of the school. After all education is a field in which every man has a right to say and so public support for the school can be had only through public understanding. So the Headmaster has the responsibility of interpreting the school to the public. This aspect seemed to have been neglected. People did not know anything about the work of the school. Apart from its training students for external public examination, a proper understanding of the needs of the school and appreciation of their programme would enable the Headmasters to secure a great deal of public co-operation and support which would make financing of the school an easy problem.

In the reorganisation that is being introduced the Headmasters are faced with the problem of selection of pupils for the diversified courses. This demands considerable flexibility in the scheme of studies in Standard VIII. In other words there should be at this stage a flexible programme of work designed to enable the Headmaster to give guidance to pupils in the selection of suitable courses. No examination conducted as a test will give the means of knowing the aptitudes of pupils. So the VIII Standard should offer a general course with some core subjects and a number of practical activities suited to reveal the skill of pupils. Groups of pupils should be engaged in these activities by rotation, each group working at any particular activity for a period of about two months. These activities should be so organised as to enable teachers to observe the pupils at work and assess their achievements and the data so collected should be fairly reliable in predicting the future of pupils and so advising them to take appropriate course in the multipurpose scheme. And the admission to the VIII Standard itself should be a selective process and not an open door one.

The All India Council for Secondary Education had the responsibility of improving the quality of instruction in schools and it had set up organizations and regional educational seminars, subject seminars, workshops, and extension services in training colleges. In the seminars and workshops the Headmasters and Educational Officers and Teachers met to consider their problems in the setting in which they had to face them and collectively find a solution for meeting them. It was expected that the participants in these seminars when they go back to their schools would try to carry out the decisions of the seminars and try worthwhile projects which would improve the quality of instruction and the tone of the institution.

Continuing Mr. Natarajan said that Extension Service Departments in training colleges were expected to come in close contact with schools in their areas and after a discussion with the staff members, list the new order of priorities and problems to be tackled and by this process of discussion and conference they would be helped to take the initiative in meeting these problems. This would not only help schools but also help training colleges and give them a real understanding of the training necessary for the future teachers. The All India Council for Secondary Education had a plan whereby it could give support to worthwhile projects in schools. The support might be in the form of direct grants to schools or in consultation with the States necessary financial and organizational assistance might be given. The Headmasters had another responsibility in that they should make known to others and to State Government the results of their projects so that others might take them up and try them in their schools.

Mr. P. R. Subramania Iyer of Kollengode said that due publicity should be given in advance to all schemes of educational expansion and allocation of grants by the Centre and the States so that all educational institutions might take advantage of the various types of grants given and submit applications in time.

The Sectional Conference of Headmasters came to a close with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by the convener.

CONFERENCE OF ASSISTANT MASTERS

A Conference of the Assistant Masters of Secondary Schools in the State was held at 8-30 p.m. on the 15th May, 1956, in the Ramakrishna Vidyalaya Boys' School, Chingleput. Sri J. Vaidyanathan, Assistant Master, Sri Ramakrishna Mission High School, Thyagarayanagar, presided.

Sri A. K. Sitaraman of P. S. High School, Mylapore, Convener, welcomed the delegates and introduced the subjects for discussion at the end of which the conference arrived at the following decisions :

(1) No individual teacher could be held responsible for the low results in the S.S.L.C. examination ;

(2) Experienced B.A., L.T.s should be allowed to teach the 10th and 11th Standards in the reorganised Higher Secondary Schools ;

(3) Teachers who are at present taking English work in the Higher Forms should be allowed to do so even though they might not have offered that subject for their degree course ;

(4) In view of the increasing responsibilities of the teacher in the curricular and extra-curricular activities of the reorganised scheme and in view of the increasing number of days in the school year, the work load of the Assistant Master should be considerably reduced so as to enable him to discharge his duty efficiently.

With a vote of thanks the Conference terminated.

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

The Third General Session of the Conference commenced at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th May, 1956, in the Conference pandal.

The reports of the Sectional Conferences—Primary and Basic Education Section, University Education Section, Elementary School Teachers' Conference, Headmasters' Conference and Assistant Masters' Conference—were presented by the Conveners of the respective sectional conferences and were approved.

Then resolutions were taken up.

Moved from the chair :

(1) This Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the sad demise of E. H. Parameswaran, who had rendered yeoman service to the cause of education for over three decades and had been an active member of the S.I.T.U. and conveys its condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

(2) This Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Kulapathy James H. Cousins who was the President of the 26th Provincial Educational Conference held at Anantapur in 1934, and who had been actively associated with our educational system for a long time and conveys its condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

(3) This Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the sad demise of C. C. Abraham who was Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education and who had done great service to the cause of Physical Education in our State and conveys its condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

RESOLUTIONS

Then the following resolutions were moved and seconded one by one and passed unanimously :

I. This Conference endorses the proposal of the Government in the White Paper on Education that the Higher Secondary School Course should be of four years duration following an integrated course of seven years of elementary education.

II. This Conference recommends that adequate provision should be made for pre-school education by the opening of infant departments of one or two years duration in all elementary schools.

III. This Conference is of the view that the age of compulsion should be six. If a child should complete the age of six on the 2nd October of a year, the child may be admitted in school earlier in June of that year.

IV. This Conference recommends that early steps should be taken to abolish higher elementary grade teacher training course.

This Conference suggests that with immediate effect from 1956-'57 the provision for higher elementary grade training course should be progressively reduced and the provision for this type of training should stop by 1960. Side by side increasing provision should be made for secondary grade training course.

All facilities should be given for the higher grade trained teachers now in service to qualify themselves for the secondary grade training certificate examination.

V. This Conference is of the opinion that the pupil-teacher ratio should be fixed at 30 : 1 in the elementary education stage and 40 : 1 in the secondary education stage as a temporary measure.

VI. This Conference views with grave concern the omission of any mention of specific scales of salary and provision for old age in the Government's White

Paper on Education. It draws the attention of the Government to the resolutions on salary scales and old age provision passed at the last three annual State Educational Conferences and wishes to stress that any further delay in meeting the legitimate claims of teachers would be aggravating the sense of frustration among the teaching profession.

VII. This Conference urges that in accordance with the recommendation of the Secondary Education Commission, a Board of Secondary Education should be constituted in 1956-'57. In as much as 200 schools are proposed to be converted into multi-purpose schools during the next five years, it is essential that the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Industries and the head of a polytechnic should find places on the Board. This Conference is of opinion that the composition and the functions of the Board should be on the lines suggested by the Secondary Education Commission. One of the functions of this Board should be to frame conditions of recognition of higher secondary schools and the qualifications of the teaching staff ; the granting of recognition should be vested in a special committee of the Board of Secondary Education.

VIII. The present forms of agreement between teachers and managements of aided secondary and elementary schools does not adequately cover cases of unjust terminations of services of teachers. This Conference is therefore of opinion that the time has come for urgent revision of the form of agreement and the relevant rules of the M.E.R. empowering the Education Department to intervene immediately so as to give effective security to teachers and, if necessary, to enact a legislation to regulate the service conditions of teachers on the lines of the Working Journalists Act.

IX. This Conference reiterates that the schools under local bodies, both secondary and elementary, should be under Regional Boards.

X. This Conference welcomes the proposal of the Government to have central workshops each providing practical instruction in the diversified courses to a group of schools in large towns.

XI. This Conference is glad to note that the Government have accepted the recommendation, so often repeated by the South India Teachers' Union, that refresher courses should be so arranged as to enable every teacher to attend the same at least once in five years in particular subjects. This Conference hopes that in a number of places refresher courses would be started in 1956-'57.

XII. This Conference is of opinion that the study of English as a compulsory subject should begin from the reorganised Standard V and Hindi or any other Indian language, not taken as first language, from Standard VI. It agrees with the Government that in the context of diversity of languages in our State it is not advisable to make Hindi compulsory ; but provision for the study of Hindi must be made in every school.

XIII. This Conference welcomes the proposal of the Central Government to survey the facilities available in the country for elementary education and how to make use of those facilities to the best advantage for spreading and efficiently reorganising elementary education. This Conference recommends that a proper planning of the location of the schools and defining the area of their service should be undertaken without delay.

XIV. This Conference reiterates the resolutions passed in the previous conferences on Provident Fund closure, old age provision, and particularly extension of the pension scheme and compulsory life insurance to all categories of teachers and the age of retirement of teachers being fixed at 60.

CONCLUDING SESSION

The concluding session of the Conference commenced at 4 p.m. on the 16th May, 1956.

Sri S. Natarajan, the President of the Conference, first thanked the Presidents and the Conveners of the various sectional conferences for the good planning they did and the expert knowledge they brought to bear upon the topics discussed.

He then referred to the following further points on which the S.I.T.U. would have to bestow attention :—

1. The form of agreement between the teacher and the management that had been working satisfactorily for some time has recently been found to hit teachers hard as is evidenced by a few cases that had cropped up necessitating the matter to be taken to a court of law. This should make the Union think whether it should not have its own spokesmen in the Legislature and whether it should not ask for statutory safeguards and thus demand that the service conditions of teachers should be regulated by an Act on the lines of the Working Journalists Act.

2. Service conditions in local bodies too were not quite happy. Teachers with higher qualifications were appointed in lower classes and lower salaries were offered. This was on unfortunate position which should immediately be set right.

3. The Government of Madras have accepted the principle conveyed in the recent Central Government circular regarding increase in the salaries of teachers and the next two months or so would show what decisions would be taken. He said he was happy about it.

He appealed to all to work for the Union believing in collective responsibility. He thanked all for the warm friendship shown and co-operation extended. He expressed his grateful thanks to the Reception Committee for the excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the Conference inspite of severe hardships they had to face.

Sri V. Arunajatai, Secretary of the S.I.T.U., thanked the President of the Conference for the great lead and help given. He also conveyed the thanks of the Union to all those who had made the Conference the success that it had been, and in a particular manner he expressed gratitude to Sri T. E. V. Sarma, Sri T. E. Santhanam, and Sri A. S. Johnson for bearing the brunt of the work.

Sri T. E. V. Sarma, Sri S. Natarajan, Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan and Sri K. Hanumantha Rao, were gratefully thanked for the good lead they had given by making generous contributions to the Golden Jubilee Building Fund of the S.I.T.U.

Sri A. S. Johnson, President of the Chingleput District Teachers' Guild, thanked the S.I.T.U. for the honour done by holding the State Educational Conference in Chingleput after a lapse of over 30 years.

Sri T. E. Santhanam, Secretary of the Chingleput District Teachers' Guild, thanked all those who had co-operated with him in the work of the Conference.

Brief but welcome showers just before the close of the Conference marked a happy conclusion to a successful three-day Conference at Chingleput.

MEETING OF HEADMASTERS WHO ATTENDED SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

A meeting of the Headmasters and teachers of the Madras State who had participated in the Seminars and Workshops organized during 1954-55, was held on 15th May 1956 at 2 p.m. in the Conference pandal of the 46th Madras State Educational Conference at Chingleput. Sri S. Natarajan, Director of Field Advisory Services, All India Council for Secondary Education and President of the Conference, presided. Sri C. M. Fazalur Rahman, Headmaster, Islamiah High School, Pernambut, welcoming the members explained the purpose of the meeting and thanked the President for having so kindly taken the initiative and for the opportunity given to them to meet.

Members present explained their gains and also furnished full particulars of the special projects undertaken by them. Some of the projects were :

(1) Adoption of dynamic methods of teaching.
(2) Organization of teachers' study clubs.
(3) Increasing use of visual aids and successful methods of improvising them at a nominal cost.
(4) Play-way methods.
(5) Provision for pupil-teacher participation in all practical activities.
(6) Providing effective library service.
(7) Conduct of various types of tests with a view to correct evaluation and adoption of remedial measures.
(8) Organization of in-service refresher courses by arranging demonstration lessons by experienced teachers.
(9) Maintenance of cumulative records and assessment of pupils' progress, aptitudes and personality traits.
(10) Teaching without the aid of any *one prescribed text book.*

The participating members also placed their difficulties in carrying out the projects. Their main hurdle was finance. Lack of adequate financial resources and encouragement were said to hamper the successful implementation of the various schemes. They expressed a desire that there should be some scheme to provide them with the necessary sanction and the resources to organise and conduct the projects they may undertake to raise the standards of efficiency.

Sri S. Natarajan gave details of the programme of the Central Advisory Council for Secondary Education for encouraging special projects in secondary schools. He also explained how the assistance of the Council could be obtained, if necessary and justified.

It was unanimously resolved to constitute a liason committee of seven members to co-ordinate the work of the participants in the Workshops and Seminars and also to serve as an agency to forward applications, if any, for specific assistance of the Central Council. The following members were elected :—

(1) Sri M. Arunachalam, Headmaster, P.K.N. High School, Tirumangalam.

(2) Sri C. M. Fazalur Rahman, Headmaster, Islamiah High School, Pernambut.

(3) Sri P. R. Swaminathan, Headmaster, R.C.T. High School, Annamalainagar.

(4) Sri P. R. Subramanyam, Headmaster, Rajah's High School, Kollengode.

(5) Sri M. Vivekananda, Headmaster, Progressive Union High School, Madras.

(6) Sri G. Sundaram, Headmaster, Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Chidambaram.

(7) Sri T. Narasimhachari, Assistant, A.A.M. High School, Tindivanam.

Sri M. Arunachalam was elected Chairman and Sri C. M. Fazalur Rahman, Convener of the Committee.

THE SOUTH INDIA TEACHERS' UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING.

The annual General Body Meeting of the South India Teachers' Union was held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the 16th May, 1956 in the Conference pandal at Chingleput. Sri T. P. Srinivasa-varadan, President of the Union, presided.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last annual General Body meeting held at Cuddalore. The same was unanimously passed.

On behalf of the Executive Board the Secretary presented to the General Body the 47th Annual Report on the work of the Union together with the audited statements of accounts.

Sri S. Natarajan moved that the Report and the audited statements of accounts be adopted. In doing so, he said : " The year that has gone by has been a year of strain for the organisation. The Union's work in studying the Alagappa Committee Report on Elementary Education and in presenting its considered views and the constructive recommendations made by the Union regarding the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission may be taken as proof of the fact that the Union has discharged its duties properly. The contribution the Union has made to educational thought has been appreciated here as well as in other States. It is rather sad to note that the appeal for (i) the membership drive, (ii) special contribution to help the Union to tide over its financial stringency and (iii) the special contribution of one rupee by each association for the special number of the *South Indian Teacher* containing the proceedings of the Conference, elicited no generous response. Associations must rally round the Union and support it financially, as otherwise much good work would be held up.

The S.I.T.U. Publications, Ltd. was started with a view to helping students with good reading material. But this too did not get the support of the schools to the extent it deserved. If all school libraries encouraged it, it would be possible to give better fare to the students and the company could contribute to the growth of good school libraries.

The S.I.T.U. Council of Educational Research is an autonomous body intended to do useful work to the cause of Education. Increased membership of this body would help the Council to serve not only this State but others as well.

1958 would be the Golden Jubilee year of the S.I.T.U. The Union is in urgent need of a decent habitation of its own in view of the situation created by the taking over of the S.I.T.U. Protection Fund by the Government. A building must be put up in the site that the S.I.T.U. has already acquired in the Colony. The Silver Jubilee Fund started in 1933 now stands at Rs. 1,500, but this must be considerably strengthened. Every member must feel it his duty to help the Union in having a building of its own, a building in keeping with the traditions and dignity of the Union and worthy of the reputation it has built up. The Union has about 40,000 members. If each member should contribute 4 annas a month for four months, a building fund of Rs. 40,000 would become an accomplished fact. Is this too much to expect of each member ? What is needed is the generous heart and the members should come forward to help the Union in this regard.

The S.I.T.U. Benevolent Fund also needs augmentation so that real help could be given to those in need and the purpose with which the Fund was

started could be fulfilled at least in a small measure."

Rev. D. Thambusamy of Madras said that 'Election' was one of the items of business transacted by the Working Committee in circulation. He questioned the procedure adopted for filling in vacancies of Presidentship and Secretaryship of the Union, when they fell vacant and sought clarification of the formalities observed.

Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar emphasised the need for strengthening the Union. He said that people should offer co-operation and service to the Union before aspiring after positions therein. He then referred to his work as Hony. Publicity Officer of the Protection Fund which had been till then the 'Kamadhenu' of the Union. Now that it was going away and the Union was getting poorer, every member and every District Teachers' Guild should show tangible proof of loyalty by offering financial assistance to the Union in this hour of need.

Sri S. S. Avadhaniyar pleaded for better work by the Publications Limited, and emphasised that success was sure if teachers were properly approached.

Sri B. A. Iswaran said that the Union should not become political or party ridden and the putting up of a candidate by the Union for the Teachers' Constituency was a bad precedent.

Sri S. Srinivasan of Katpadi wanted the Secretary to explain why the standing rule for the election of President for the State Educational Conference was deviated this year. He suggested conferring of honours or titles on those who had rendered yeoman service to the cause of Education.

Mr. G. Jayanathan of Nagapattinam suggested that in future years the Union and the Reception Committee should take steps to see that more elementary school teachers attended the Conference. He wanted the S.I.T.U. to publish a monthly bulletin giving useful information, particularly to elementary school teachers.

Mr. P. S. Venkatakrishna Rao of Mangalore said that it would be difficult for Guilds like this for finding the money if the affiliation fee was enhanced.

Sri V. Antoniswamy pleaded for a report in Tamil. He said that the strength of the Union lay in bringing within its fold all elementary school teachers' associations and wanted greater publicity in this regard. He wanted that the report should give an abstract of the work of each District Teachers' Guild, its membership, etc., so that there could be healthy emulation between the districts. He explained the democratic procedure adopted at the Executive Board meeting on the 19th November 1955 for electing the President and the Secretary of the Union and appealed for unity. He concluded by saying "Let us be fair to those who have sweated for the Union."

Sri M. Rajah Iyer of Ramnad explained that approval was given to Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan by the Working Committee to stand for election as he occupied the place as President of the Union.

Mr. Ignatious of Trichy also took part.

Sri V. Arunajatai said that it was a travesty of truth to call the Union as party-minded and reminded the members that disinterested service was their motto. He appealed for loyalty and unity.

Sri S. Natarajan replying to the points raised said that Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan had decided to stand for election and as he was the President of the Union, he sought the permission of the Working Committee to do so. His opinion was that there was nothing wrong in such a procedure, that the Working Committee had not exercised its powers in any irresponsible or obliging manner and that, in fact, it was the correct thing that had been done, since the prestige of the Union was associated with it.

The Report was then put to vote and adopted unanimously.

The election of office-bearers was then taken up.

The President called for the nominations for the post of President. The following names were duly proposed and seconded :—

1. Rev. D. Thambusami.
2. Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan.

As Rev. D. Thambusami declined the proposal, Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan was declared elected President.

For the two posts of Vice-Presidents the following five names were proposed and duly seconded :—

1. Mrs. Saraswathi Srinivasan (Madras).
2. Mr. V. Antoniswamy (Karaikudi).
3. Mr. P. Govinda Rao (Kamuthi).
4. Mr. A. S. Johnson (Chingleput).
5. Mr. A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar (Kancheepuram).

For the post of Secretary, Sri V. Arunajatai was proposed and seconded. As there was no other nomination, Sri V. Arunajatai was declared elected as Secretary.

For the office of Joint Secretary, Sri T. E. Santhanam of Chingleput was declared elected.

For the office of Treasurer Mr. L. Mariapragasam and Mr. M. S. Varadarajan were proposed and seconded. Mr. M. S. Varadarajan withdrew and Sri L. Mariapragasam was declared elected as Treasurer of the Union.

Sri T. N. Sundaram of T'Nagar was elected Convener of the Vigilance Committee and the following were elected as members :—

1. Sri Ignatious of Tiruchy.
2. Sri S. Natarajan of Cheyyur.
3. Sri D. Sebastian.
4. Sri J. Vaidyanathan.

As there were more than two names for the Vice-President's posts, election by ballot was arranged. Sri S. Dharmarajan of Kallal was appointed the polling officer and was requested to have his own arrangements for assistance. As a result of the counting of votes, the following two persons were declared elected Vice-Presidents of the Union :—

1. Mrs. Saraswathi Srinivasan
2. Sri P. Govinda Rao.

Then the amendments to the Rules of the Union were considered. Mr. P. S. Venkatakrishna Rao of Mangalore moved that the maximum should be Rs. 150 instead of Rs. 200, the minimum remaining the same. This was duly seconded and passed.

The amended rule reads as follows :—

Rule 3. *Membership Fee :*

Clause I. *Affiliation fee :*

(a) *District Teachers' Guilds.*

The affiliation fee of a District Teachers' Guild shall be made up as hereunder :—

(i) Subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 and a maximum of Rs. 150, an amount calculated at the rate of four annas per member on the rolls of its affiliated associations other than Taluk, Municipal or Range Elementary Teachers' Unions, as on the 30th June of the year preceding ;

(ii) A sum calculated at the rate of rupee one per 50 members on its elementary school teachers' unions (whether centre, range or taluk) ; and

(iii) A sum calculated at annas four per individual member on its rolls in the previous year.

Clauses (b) and (c) remain the same.

With a vote of thanks the General Body Meeting came to an end.

THE SOUTH INDIA TEACHERS' UNION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A meeting of the Executive Board of the South India Teachers' Union was held at 8-30 p.m. on Monday the 14th May 1956 in the Conference Pandal at Chingleput. Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan, President of the Union, presided.

The following members were present:

Messrs. S. Natarajan (Ex-President), T. P. Gopalakrishnan (North Arcot), D. Narasimhachari (North Arcot), R. Bhuvarahan (Tiruchirapalli), A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar (Vice-President), G. Srinivasachari (Madras), C. Ranganatha Aiyengar (Journal Secretary), A. T. Doraiswamy Iyengar (Chingleput), P. R. Swaminathan (Joint Secretary), K. Karunakaran (North Malabar), Rev. D. Thambusami (Madras), R. Mahadevan (Tanjore), A. Ramayya (Madurai), P. R. Subramania Iyer (South Malabar), P. S. Venkatakrishna Rao (South Kanara), V. Anthoniswamy (Ramnad), M. J. Rengaswamy (Ramnad), L. Mariapragasam (Treasurer), and V. Arunajatai (Secretary).

1. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and recorded.

2. It was pointed out to the Board that though the time for the registration of delegates was extended up to 15th April, many members have sent their delegation fee even after that date. The Board ratified the registration of delegates up to the evening of 14th May 1956.

3. The Board was informed that there were three seats vacant in the Working Committee. The Board decided that the vacancies might be left unfilled, as fresh members had to be elected just after about a month.

It was suggested by Sri S. Natarajan that the election of office-bearers of the District Teachers' Guilds may be so phased that the representatives of the Guilds on the Executive of the S.I.T.U. might be enabled to take their places from July every year.

4. With regard to the administration of the S.I.T.U. Profession Trust Fund, the President of the Union was authorised to take suitable action (after taking legal opinion, if necessary) for the administration of the Profession Trust Fund, bearing in mind the suggestion that the Working Committee of the Union could become the Trustees.

5. *Building for the S.I.T.U.*—The situation arising out of the notice on the S.I.T.U. to vacate the portion, given by the Custodian of the S.I.T.U. Protection Fund, Ltd. was discussed. It was decided that a Jubilee Building should be put up and that a sum of Rs. 3,000 from the Profession Trust Fund and a sum of Rs. 1,000 from the Benevolent Fund should be raised as loans. These should be augmented by donations or contributions from District Teachers' Guilds and Members of the Union.

Sri S. Natarajan suggested that there should be a vigorous campaign for Golden Jubilee Membership. He also wanted that each District Guild should undertake financing for one room costing about Rs. 2,500.

Sri R. Bhuvarahan of Tiruchirapalli suggested that a special appeal could be made to members for donation even at the Conference.

Sri G. Srinivasachari of Madras suggested that a special appeal could be made to members for contributions in one or more instalments.

The following decisions were arrived at :—

(i) The Secretary was authorised to apply for loans from the Profession Trust Fund and the Benevolent Fund ;

(ii) Special appeal for donations should be made to members to contribute at least Rs. 2/- each, either in one or in not more than four instalments ;

(iii) Special appeal should be made to District Guilds to finance the construction of one room to be named after the respective Guild ; and

(iv) Plans should be approved by the Executive Board and constructions should begin as early as possible.

6. The Executive Board was then apprised of the cases of two headmasters, Sri V. Sarangapani Naidu and Sri K. M. Ramaswami Gounder. The appeal for help from Sri V. Sarangapani Naidu was considered and the Executive Board sanctioned a sum of Rs. 100/- from the Defence Fund.

7. Then the Executive Board considered the annual report and the audited financial statements of accounts to be presented to the General Body and passed them unanimously.

8. Sri S. Natarajan then explained to the members the circumstances under which Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan announced his candidature for the bye-election to the Madras Legislative Council from the Teachers' Constituency. He said that the policy of the Union had been not to put up candidates for election officially. Here Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan at the request of teachers decided to stand. He is the President of the Union, and so he sought the approval of the Working Committee which was given. It was for the Executive Board to consider whether the approval given by the Working Committee should be ratified.

Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar wanted the Executive Board to give its whole-hearted approval. He laid stress on the loyalty of members to the Union.

Rev. D. Thambusami said that it would be construed that the Working Committee had pursued a partisan policy. He wanted the question to be decided as a matter of policy and not as an individual case. He proposed that the procedure adopted by the Working Committee should be referred to the General Body. No one seconded the proposal.

Sri P. S. Venkatakrishna Rao proposed that the approval given by the Working Committee be ratified by the Executive Board. This was seconded by Sri L. Mariaprakasam and further supported by Sri S. D. Krishnamoorthy Rao. The proposal of Sri P. S. Venkatakrishna Rao was carried. Rev. D. Thambusami wanted his minute of dissent to be recorded.

With a vote of thanks the meeting terminated.

V. ARUNAJATAI,
Secretary.

20th May 1956.

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THE SOUTH INDIA TEACHERS' UNION

Appeal for the S.I.T.U. Building Fund

(Estimated cost Rs. 40,000)

Consequent on the nationalisation of Insurance Companies, the S.I.T.U. Protection Fund Buildings have been taken over by the Government and the tenancy of the South India Teachers' Union in the above premises may cease. So it has become an urgent necessity for the S.I.T.U. to have a building of its own.

The Executive Board of the S.I.T.U. that met on the 14th May 1956 in the Conference pandal at Chingleput took the following decisions :—

1. A building should be put up to commemorate the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the S.I.T.U. preferably on the site already purchased in the S.I.T.U. Colony at Raja Annamalaipuram.

2. Special appeals for donation should be made to members to contribute at least Rs. 2/- each, either in one or more instalments, the last instalment to be collected on or before 1st October 1956.

3. Special appeal should be made to District Teachers' Guilds to undertake the financing for the construction of one room by each District Guild to the extent of Rs. 2,500/. This could very well serve the purpose of affording lodging to brother and sister teachers and visitors and also to school excursion parties coming from the mofussil.

4. The construction should begin as early as possible after the Executive Board of the S.I.T.U. approves of the plan.

If each member could contribute at least Rs. 2/- either in one instalment or at the rate of at least eight annas per month consecutively for four months commencing from July 1956, a very decent sum could be raised for putting up a magnificent structure worthy of the reputation and tradition the S.I.T.U. has built up. This should enable us to realise some money at once.

In addition to ordinary membership, if other classes of membership could be devised and collections made in one or more instalments by each District Teachers' Guild, it would not be impossible for each big District Guild to undertake the expenses of a room in its name in the proposed building.

May we appeal to you to launch vigorous campaign for the enrolment of contributors to the S.I.T.U. Building Fund approaching all teachers and teachers' organizations in the collegiate, secondary as well as elementary schools. We trust that this appeal will receive your earnest and immediate attention and the response would be quick and generous.

All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and published in the *South Indian Teacher* and the *Balar Kalvi,* the official journals of the S.I.T.U.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this appeal and also intimate to this office the steps that will be taken by you to fulfil the objective set forth in this appeal.

Fully believing in your esteemed cooperation and thanking you,

(By Order of the Executive Board)

T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN,

President.

V. ARUNAJATAI,

Secretary.

1st June 1956.

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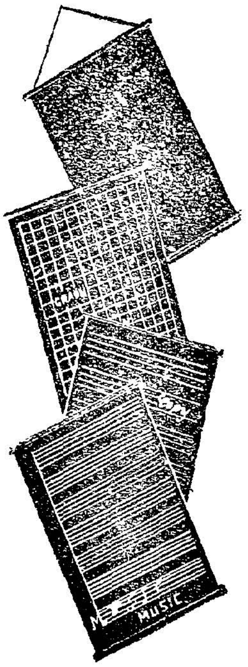

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2. The Secretary, Sri Ramakrishna Mission, Chingleput	..	101	0	0
3. Sri K. Hanumantha Rao, Headmaster, C.C.C. High School, Perambur, Madras	..	10	0	0
4. Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan, Headmaster, Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras (promised Rs. 51 and paid first instalment)	..	25	0	0
5. The Secretary, Teachers' Association, Pachiappa's High School, Kancheepuram :				
1. Sri K. Vajravelu Mudaliar (in one instalment)	..	2	0	0
2. Sri N. L. Mirajkar (in one instalment)	..	2	0	0
3. Sri A. M. Kanniappa Mudaliar (1st instalment)	..	0	8	0
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17. „ G. Seshadri Iyengar do.	..	0	8	0
18. „ K. Thangavelu do.	..	0	8	0
19. „ V. Tirugnanasambanda Mudaliar do.	..	0	8	0
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27. „ C. A. Dayanandan do.	..	0	8	0
28. „ T. S. A. Pushpanathan do.	..	0	8	0
Total	..	254	0	0

Note :—Appeals have been sent to all the affiliated Teachers' Associations. The Secretary of the Association is requested to collect the amount from its members and remit the same without delay as the S.I.T.U. is in urgent need of a building of its own.

Secretary.

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THE S. I. T. U. BENEVOLENT FUND

Serial subscription number of members who have renewed their subscription for the year 1955-56 :—

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Serial subscription number of members who have renewed their subscription for the year 1956-57 :—

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No. 155. Sri K. N. Pasupathy.

No. 2911. Sri K. G. Ramachandran.

No. 6. Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar, Madras.

No. 1799. Sri K. Soundararaja Rao, Board H. S., Musiri.

Municipal High School, Karaikudi, Ramnad.

Nos. 1324-1328, 1330, 1331, 1333-1338, 1340-1343, 3079.

Suburban High School, Coimbatore.

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3278. Sri S. Nagarajan.

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3281. Sri V. Ramachandran.
3282. Sri K. Elangovan.
3283. „ N. Krishnamurthi.
3284. „ B. Gururajan.
3285. Mrs. K. Lalitha.

Note :—Whenever members send their renewal subscriptions they are requested to give a detailed list of the members, if possible, with the subscription serial numbers.

Rules for Benefit Payment

Now that a period of more than two years has elapsed since the commencement of the S.I.T.U. Benevolent Fund scheme, the Beneovlent Fund Committee has resolved that benefits may be made available to deserving applicants to the extent possible in accordance with the following :—

1. Relief for the present may be given to members or to widows or children of members when left destitute.

2. Application for aid will have to be made through the concerned District Teachers' Guild.

3. For the present aid will be given to members in cases of medical leave on loss of pay or half pay, for prolonged illness and inability on the part of the member to meet the full cost of medical treatment, and to destitute widows and heirs. In cases of aid for prolonged medical treatment aid to a maximum of Rs. 25 and in other cases aid not exceeding Rs. 15/- may be given.

4. The total amount for each year available for aid will for the present be administered by the Central Committee till District Committees are formed. Applications for aid will be considered only up to the extent to which the funds for the year are available.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have joined the Benevolent Fund. The amount available for distribution by way of benefit is disproportionately small in comparison with the need, but in course of time, it should be possible to fulfil in an adequate measure the objects with which the Fund was started.

I appeal to all teachers to build up the Fund with faith and generosity.

T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN,
Administrator.

Madras-28,
1st June 1956.

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FROM OUR ASSOCIATIONS

THE TANJORE DT. TEACHERS' GUILD

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WHITE PAPER

The Council of the Tanjore District Teachers' Guild met on 26-4-'56 in the National High School, Mayuram and discussed the White Paper on Education issued by the Government of Madras. The Council made the following recommendations :

1. The proposal of the Government to fix the age of admission at 5½ plus and the School-leaving age at 16½ plus may be accepted. However, Government should encourage the opening of Nursery and Kinder-garten Schools by private agencies by liberal grants-in-aid so as to provide for pre-elementary education.

2. The length of the School course may be 11 years made up of 7 years of elementary education and 4 years of secondary education and a common terminology of standards 1 to 11 may be adopted. As most of our elementary schools have only standards 1 to 5 at present, they may be up-graded to the 7th standard so that an integrated course of 7 years of elementary education may be made possible and efficient. The content of the 'Core' subjects in standards 6 and 7 should be the same in all schools so as to facilitate proper dove-tailing of the elementary and secondary schools. Standards 5, 6 and 7 should be handled by secondary grade assistants, standards 8 to 11 by graduate trained teachers and teachers now qualified to teach forms IV to VI. The 11th standard should be handled by M.A.'s or B.A. (Hons.) people or by persons having at least 10 years' teaching experience in the school final class.

3. The syllabi for the 11 standards should be finalised by the end of 1956-'57 and should be put into operation in the academic year 1957-'58 simultaneously in standards 1 and 8 (present III Form) so that the first school final examination under the new scheme might be held in 1961. The extra educational load necessary to reach the new school final standard is distributed over 4 years for the 1st set of pupils and over 7 years for pupils who will be in the 5th standard in 1957-'58. This may not be a great hardship in view of the fact that it is proposed to work 200 days in the year in the Secondary Schools.

4. The 'Shift System' will entail considerable hardship to the children and is, therefore, not recommended.

5. The teacher-pupil ratio may be fixed at 1 : 30 of average attendance.

6. English should be taught as a compulsory subject from Standard 5. The teaching of English in standards 5, 6 and 7 should be in the hands of Secondary Grade teachers and in standards 8 to 11 by trained graduate teachers who have offered English as one of the subjects in the degree course. To maintain and improve the quality of instruction, refresher course must be organised.

7. Hindi may be taught as an optional subject in standards 8 to 11. But the number of periods allotted to Hindi should be raised to at least 3 periods a week.

8. Steps should be taken to discontinue higher grade training. Higher grade trained teachers may be allowed to teach only the first 3 standards.

9. There should be an external examination at the end of the 7th standard for the proper assessment of the pupil's attainment at the end of the 7 year integrated course. It will also test the pupil's fitness for further education in the secondary school.

10. The Council feels that the rate of introduction of multi-purpose courses in the High Schools is far too slow and

recommends that diversified courses be introduced in as many schools as possible so that at the end of the plan period a good number of schools would have the benefit of the new course.

11. The Council considers that the system of co-operative multi-purpose school envisaged in the White Paper will create problems of administration for schools.

12. The Council views with grave concern the fact that the Government have no plan to meet the just demands of teachers with regard to salary scales and pension and wishes to urge the Government to alleviate the hardships of teachers without delay and unless this is done, no improvement in efficiency so necessary for the successful working of the reorganised scheme is possible.

13. The existing form of contract between teachers and managements of aided schools is defective and does not afford sufficient protection to teachers against abuse of powers, harassment and even unjust termination of service. The Council requests that the contract be suitably revised. No permanent teacher should be sent away from service without the previous permission of the educational authority.

14. The Council welcomes the proposal to arrange for the supply of midday meal to elementary school children studying in areas of intensive development. In this connection the Council requests the Government to explore the possibilities of Bhoodan by big landlords for the benefit of schools.

15. In view of the recommendation of the international team of experts, the Secondary Education Commission, the University of Madras and the Annamalai University the Council requests the Government to fix the age of retirement for teachers at 60. The fear of the department that the fixing of the age at 60 is likely to create "repercussions affecting all classes of public and quasi-public employment" is wide of the mark because teachers at present do not get the benefits and rewards which public and quasi-public servants enjoy.

THE TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT TEACHERS' GUILD

Resolutions passed at the General Body meeting of the Guild on 28-4-'56 at Tilk Vidyalaya, Kallidaikurichi.

1. Resolved to request the Government to raise the age of retirement of teachers in all institutions (aided, local bodies and Government) from 55 to 60 with immediate effect.

2. Resolved to request the Government to grant full-fee concession to children of all grades of teachers upto S.S.L.C.

3. Resolved to request Government to grant pension to all grades of teacers in all institutions, aided, private and local bodies.

4. Resolved to request Government to open centres for T.T.C. course for the mechanics working in the Engineering section of the bifurcated course as for craft instructors such as weaving, book-binding, wood-work, etc.

5. To fix a special scale of pay for Headmasters of middle schools as in the case of Headmasters of High Schools.

6. To raise the Headmasters' allowance from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 irrespective of the strength of the school.

7. To permit a second grade clerk for middle schools (as the nature of work in the middle school is the same as in High Schools).

8. This conference recommends the direct payment of salary to all teachers serving in aided elementary schools.

9. (a) This conference requests the Government to sanction study leave on full pay for all grades of teachers for a period not exceeding one month.

(b) Teachers appearing for Government examinations may be exempted from the necessity of attending school on the closing day.

10. Resolved to request the Government to expedite the encashment of matured N.S. certificates and reinvestment of the same in T.P.F. account (to avoid loss of interest).

11. Resolved to request the President of S.I.T.U., to frame bye-laws for the administration of the Benevolent Fund as it is more than four years since the scheme was started.

12. Resolved to request the Government to revise the scales of pay of all grades of teachers in all schools (aided and local bodies) as per resolutions of the State Conference.

13. Resolved to request the Government to issue orders to managements of aided schools to add the increased amount of grant sanctioned by the Government to all teachers along with their present salary fixed in the teachers' service register.

The following office-bearers were elected :-

President :

Sri T. V. Arumugam, B.A., L.T., Headmaster, M. D. T. Hindu College School, Tirunelveli.

Secretary :

Sri P. R. Mahadevan, B.A., L.T., Assistant, M. D. T. Hindu College School, Tirunelveli.

Representatives on the South India Teachers' Union :

1. Sri Bertie Philip, B.A., L.T., Assistant. Schaffter High School, Tirunelveli Town.
2. Sri H. Visweswaran, B.SC., L.T., Assistant, Tirthapathi High School, Ambasamudram.

NORTH MALABAR DISTRICT TEACHERS' GUILD

The meeting of the General Body of the North Malabar District Teachers' Guild was held on 6-5-'56 at Kuthuparamba, with Sri K. Karunakaran, B.A., L.T., President of the Guild in the chair.

OPINION OF THE GUILD ON THE WHITE PAPER

1. Elementary Education should be an integrated course of 8 years.

In case the Government adopts the integrated course of 7 years, as mentioned in the White Paper, those who opt for Higher Elementary school final course should not be debarred from admission to the ninth standard of a secondary school, if they so desire after successfully completing the test.

2. Any rigidity with regard to age of admission in the Elementary School might deny opportunities to thousands of children of the age of five, to have any kind of schooling, until such time as pre-primary or nursery schools aided or unaided come into existence in quite large numbers. So we request that the status quo might be maintained and children with age qualifications of 5 plus be taken into elementary schools.

3. In the first three standards the pupil-teacher ratio should not exceed 20 : 1 and in the other standards 30 : 1.

4. All existing schools should in course of time be converted into basic ones and recognition should not be given to new schools other than basic. As a transitory measure the existing non basic schools should be given some distinctive feature of basic schools.

5. Hindi the national language should be made compulsory in the curricula of studies from reorganised V standard allotting more periods.

6. It is unjustifiable to state that if the age of retirement is raised to 60, it will have likely repercussions affecting all classes of public and quasi-public employments. Experienced teachers, if they are found hale and healthy should be retained at least till the completion of 60.

7. The minimum qualification for admission to training schools should be eligible S.S.L.C. or its equivalent and Higher Elementary training should be put to a stop this year itself.

8. The White Paper says that the decision of the Govt. to give the benefit of the Provident Fund-cum-pension followed by compulsory insurance scheme for teachers is separately under the consideration of the Government. The delay in implementing the scheme is highly regretted. The benefit should be granted to teachers of all categories. We request that the scheme may be implemented immediately.

9. The pay scale of secondary grade teachers, immaterial of the classes they handle, should be as recommended by the S.I.T.U.

10. The White Paper is woefully silent about the pay scale and other emoluments of Higher Elementary grade teachers. This meeting regrets to note the injustice done to this category of teachers and requests the Government to introduce the pay scale recommended by the S.I.T.U.

11. Earnest and sincere attempts should be made to implement article 45 of the Constitution as it is very easy for execution so far as Malabar is concerned.

12. For the successful execution of any educational edifice, the immediate and absolute necessity is of revising the salary scales of all grades of teachers as recommended by the S.I.T.U. The reorganised scheme is entirely dependent upon the body of contented teachers, above want.

13. The meeting requests that full fee concession may be granted to children of teachers in High Schools also.

14. Those pupils who enjoy military concession should be allowed to continue the privilege till the present stage of education is completed.

15. The White Paper is silent on the Government's intention in the matter of security of tenure for teachers. This meeting is of opinion that the time has come for urgent revision of the agreement and the relevant rules of the M. E. R. empowering the educational Department to interfere immediately as to give effective security to teachers.

16. The White Paper is silent about leave rules.

17. Nothing about the steps to be taken against erring managements is mentioned.

18. The White Paper has overlooked the question of the State taking over the management of elementary schools. The Guild is of opinion that the State should take over the management of elementary schools.

THE LATE E. H. PARAMESWARAN

Tributes to the services rendered by E. H. Parameswaran received from Sri S. B. Padmanabhan, Bodinayakanur.

NEWS AND NOTES

MUKUNDANAGAR

Presiding over the 15th Annual Conference of the Walluvanad Taluk Aided Elementary Teachers' Union, held on 6th May, 1956, at Mukundanagar, at Nellaya, near Ottapalam, Prof. E. N. Subrahmanyam, Vice-President of the S.I.T.U., observed that if funds from temples and mutts were going to be diverted by Central Legislation for financing the Second Five Year Plan, those funds must be available exclusively for the expansion of elementary education, for improving the lot of the primary teachers and for providing free mid-day meals to poor children.

Prof. Subrahmanyam, at the outset, paid a touching tribute to the memory of the late Mr. E. H. Parameswaran, M.L.C., who had presided over the last year's conference at Ottapalam.

Referring to the White Paper on Education, he said, that the proposal for a four year course of secondary education following a seven year course of integrated elementary education had been generally welcomed. While the age of admission could fixed at 6, he urged the starting of a wide net work of nursery schools and kindergartens for the age group 3 to 6. He made a strong plea for fixing the age of retirement at 60 and for the implementation of the triple benefit scheme of pension cum provident fund cum insurance to all categories of teachers.

While private sector could be recognised in Secondary and University education he said that Government should assume complete responsibility for primary education. He recalled the speech of the Education Minister in the Madras Legislature in March, 1955, that education should not be allowed to be exploited by private enterprise for commercial purposes. He said that the Andhra Government were proposing to take over all primary schools in Nellore District and suggested that all primary schools in Malabar should be taken over by the Madras Government to start with.

Concluding he congratulated the Union on the good work it was doing in the field of adult education and said that no form of Government was more dangerous than an uneducated democracy.

Proceedings commenced with prayer by two women teachers after which Mr. N. Sekharan Unni Varier, Chairman of the Reception Committee welcomed the gathering.

Mr. M. G. Govinda Menon, M.L.C., who inaugurated the Conference deplored that the Rajaji Scheme for Elementary Education was rejected. He had nothing much to say in support of the White Paper on Education and made a strong plea for Basic Education.

Mr. M. P. Raman Nair, Secretary of the Conference, read messages of good wishes received for the occasion from Rajaji, Mahakavi Vallathol, Messrs. N. D. Sundaravadivelu, D.P.I., T. P. Srinivasavaradan, President of the S.I.T.U. and others. Mr. K. P. Kumaran, Secretary of the Union, presented the Annual Report.

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Mr. A. P. P. Nambudiri, Malayalam Lecturer of the Feroke College and Mr. V. Kumara Menon, Joint Secretary of the South Malabar District Teachers' Guild, addressed the Conference. Mr. K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair, President of the Walluvanad Taluk Board Elementary Teachers' Association and Mr. Kochusankaran Nair, President of the Palghat Taluk Aided Teachers' Union, next offered fraternal greetings.

The Conference adopted a condolence resolution touching the death of Mr. E. H. Parameswaran, Dr. James H. Cousins, Dr. Amaranath Jha, Dr. M. N. Sha, Mr. Mavlankar and Mr. Mukunda Karta, one of the Union workers. Resolutions requesting the Government to assume responsibility for primary education all over Madras State and in Malabar as a first step, providing free mid-day meals to children, granting of half pension to all categories of teachers, introducing the triple benefit scheme and welcoming the formation of the Kerala State were also adopted among others by the conference.'

There was an interesting programme of variety entertainment by the different Branch Associations in the District.

At the Cultural Session held in the morning, there was a discussion on Primary Education. Mr. Karimpuzha Ramakrishnan presided and Messrs. K. Bhiman Nair, K. Balakrishnan Nair, Cherukad and Shrimati Janaki Devi Prasad participated.

Mr. Raman Nair, proposed a vote of thanks. In addition to the five hundred delegates, the Conference was attended by about 3,000 persons from the public.

GENERAL SCIENCE

For Forms I-III of Secondary Schools

BY

S. RAJARAMAN, B.A., L.T.,

Headmaster, Sri Arumuganavalar High School, Chidambaram.
(Formerly Headmaster, Board High School, Tiruvarur.)

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OUR BOOK SHELF

Language Problems in India : By P. Kodanda Rao, Servants of India Society, Bangalore-4.

In this brochure the author makes out a strong case against Linguistic Provinces, pleads for a unitary government, and argues for retention of the English language as at present and extend it as the second language instead of Hindi. The section on vertical bi-lingualism in Education and relevant paragraphs are reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

Special Methods : By D. T. Deshpande. (Distane Brothers Home Service, Ltd., 456, Ravivarpeth, Poona-2. Price Rs. 2-4-0).

This book is the second part of the book 'Manual of S.T.C. Examinations' by the author. It contains questions and answers on special methods of teaching history, geography, mathematics, science, English, Marathi, and Hindi. The book will be found particularly useful to teachers under training.

Chowgarh Tigers (*Tamil*) : Translated by T. J. Ranganathan from Jim Corbett's Man Eaters of Kumaon. (Oxford University Press, Price 10 Annas.)

The hair-raising account of the man-eaters of Kumaon is rendered into easy and simple Tamil and thus gives an opportunity to the youngsters knowing Tamil to read and be thrilled in their turn.

Handwriting : By John Le F. Dumpleton. (English University Press. Ltd. Price 6 sh. net.)

This book is of the 'Teach Yourself' series. Its aim is to show that handwriting can be legible, speedy and pleasing to the eye and such writing is within the capacity of any one who cares to spend a few hours acquiring the necessary skills.

Contemporary French Translation Passagse : By R. A. Leigh and A. J. Steele. (Thomas Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh. Price 6 sh.)

The passages in this book have been selected from the works of the 20th century authors covering a wide variety of themes ; viz., philosophy, description, literary criticism, drama, humour, etc. These provide suitable material for translation in the sixth form and university French classes and at the same time illustrate the important developments which have taken place during the last half century in syntax, vocabulary and style. The get-up and binding are good.

List of publications received and acknowledged with thanks :

1. Calavala Cunnan Chettiar High School, Perambur, Magazine, April, 1956.
2. Report of the Burnham Committee on scales of salaries for teachers in primary and secondary schools —England and Wales, 1951.
3. Report of the Committee on scales of salaries for the teaching staff of training colleges—England and Wales.
4. Report of the Committee on scales of salaries for the teaching staff of Farm Institute and for teachers of Agriculture (including horticultural subjects)—England and Wales.
5. Centenary Souvenir, 1956—Teachers' College, Madras.—A beautifully got up volume with plenty of pictures and a number of useful articles on educational topics besides a few reminiscences.
6. Hindu Theological High School Magazine—Silver Jubilee Souvenir, 1956. (A very beautiful and attractive production).
7. Education in the States of the Indian Union, 1952-53. (Ministry of Education, Government of India).

OUR LETTER BOX

REFRESHER COURSE IN HINDI

The Refresher Course in Hindi organised by the Tamilnad Hindi Prachar Sabha, for the benefit of the Hindi Teachers of High Schools and the Hindi Pracharaks working in Hindi Premi Mandalis affiliated to the Hindi Prachara Sabha which commenced at the Town High School, Kumbakonam, on 9th May, came to a close on 14th May. At a function got up in this connection presided over by Dr. R. Mahalingam, speeches were delivered by Shri S. R. Sastri and Shri M. Satyanarayana eulogising the services rendered by the distinguished lecturers who gave a series of lectures under the Refresher Scheme.

The Course was conducted under the direction of Sri M. Swaminathan, Principal, Hindi Praveen Vidyalaya, Kumbakonam, supported by a band of experienced lecturers. The Course consisted of 23 lectures on Hindi literature, comparative study of Hindi and a South Indian language and method of teaching Hindi to South Indian pupils.

As many as 66 teachers attended the course, even though it was limited to 50 by the Hindi Prachar Sabha, of whom 7 were women teachers.

Shri P. Kakkan, President, Tamilnad Congress Committee, distributed the certificates to all the teachers who underwent the course.

S. R. Sastri,
Secretary.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Conference of the Madras State Aided Secondary School Managements' Association has requested the Government to form immediately an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of managements and headmasters. There is already the Board of Secondary Education constituted three decades back, and a State Advisory Board of Education constituted ten years back; and these two bodies are expected to advise the Government on matters referred to them either by the D.P.I., or the Government. I am unable to understand why the Department of Education did not place the audit rules before these bodies and obtain their considered views. I believe there is no necessity for a third advisory body being constituted by the Government.

The Education Minister assured the managements that there was no question of secondary education being nationalised for a long time to come. As Prime Minister Nehru constantly observes, the private sector is expected to work within the framework of the national policy. The private sector has a great responsibility in the administration of secondary schools. The President of the Association, Mr. Sanjeevi Naidu, stated that the departmental audit questioned such legitimate expenditure as granting pension, gratuity, leave pay for 12 months in a teacher's full career. I believe that the instructions issued for the preparation of the Financial Statements permit the 12 months' leave in a teacher's entire career; hence the departmental audit is not entitled to question this item. The Government are expected to be model employers, as Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru remarked in a recent message. Where managements do not show magnanimity enough to grant pension and gratuity, the department should, according to the Government's Labour policy, advise the managements to be humane in their treatment of teachers. Even rich managements may not like to go against departmental audit rules if such expenditure as it stated above is considered by the department objectionable. The principle of triple benefits has been conceded by the Government. The Government should encourage managements to sanction pension and gratuity benefits with retrospective effect to retired teachers who happen to be alive after years of service.

R. Srinivasa Iyengar,
Principal,
Srinivasa Tutorial.

Coimbatore,
18-5-'56.

S. I. T. U. PUBLICATIONS, LIMITED

Raja Annamalaipurm, Madras-28

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as on 31st December 1955)

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Headmaster, Christian College High School, Madras.

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Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras-5.

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Headmaster, Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras-5.

One vacant.

S. I. T. U. PUBLICATIONS, LIMITED

Report for the year 1955

The Board of Directors have pleasure in presenting to the Members the Report for the year 1955, together with the balance sheet and profit and loss account.

Board Meeting: The Board met twice during the year, on the 8th March and 10th September 1955. The report for 1954 was considered and passed and the distribution of profit was made in accordance with the article 32 of the Articles of Association. Sanction was accorded for the publication of 'Perunthozhilin Kathai'. Sri T. S. Rajagopala Iyengar was appointed Secretary in the place of Sri S. Natarajan who resigned his office of Secretaryship.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the company was held on 25th June 1955. The annual report and balance sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts were adopted. The two retiring Directors were re-elected. Messrs. V. Soundararajan & Co. were elected Auditors for the year 1955 and their remuneration was fixed. The General Body accepted the recommendation of the Board of Directors to declare 3⅛% dividend on valid shares paid.

Share Capital: The total number of shareholders of the Company as on 31-12-1955 was 125, with 14 A-class shares and 505 B-class shares. The paid up capital of these shares were Rs. 560 on the 14 A-class shares and Rs. 5035 on the 505 B-class shares. There is yet an amount of Rs. 15 due towards allotment money on three B-class shares.

Publications: Two thousand copies of the book "Perunthozhilin Kathai" were published during the year. The progress of the sale is satisfactory. Efforts are being made to publish at least two books during the year 1956.

Statements of Accounts: The balance sheet and profit and loss account of the Company are appended. This year the account shows a loss of Rs. 53-11-4. We have to find a market for the disposal of the remaining copies of the previous publications.

The Directors offer their thanks to the shareholders for their co-operation.

(By Order of the Board of Directors)

K. KURUVILA JACOB, *Chairman.*

T. S. RAJAGOPALAN, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE S. I. T. U. PUBLICATIONS, LIMITED, MADRAS.

We have audited the Balance Sheet of the S. I. T. U. Publications, Ltd., Madras as at 31st December 1955 together with the Publications and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended that date with the books of account of the Company and in our opinion and in the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give the information required by the Companies Act, 1956 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31st December 1955 and the Publications and Profit and Loss Account gives a true and fair view of the profit or loss for the financial year ended that date.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Company so far as appears from our examination of those books.

The Company's Balance Sheet and the Publications and Profit and Loss Account dealt with by the Report are in agreement with the books of account.

Telephone No. 55211,
CATHOLIC CENTRE, ARMENIAN ST.,
MADRAS-1.
4th May, 1956.

V. SOUNDARARAJAN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

S. I. T. U. PUBLICATIONS,

Balance Sheet as at

31-12-54 Rs.	A.	P.	CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	31-12-1955 Rs.	A.	P.
			SHARE CAPITAL :									
			Authorised and Issued									
50,000	0	0	— 500 'A' class shares of Rs. 100/- each ..							50,000	0	0
50,000	0	0	— 2,000 'B' class shares of Rs. 25/- each ..							50,000	0	0
1,00,000	0	0								1,00,000	0	0
			Subscribed Capital :									
1,400	0	0	— 14 'A' class shares of Rs. 100/- each ..							1,400	0	0
12,625	0	0	— 505 'B' class shares of Rs. 25/- each ..							12,625	0	0
14,025	0	0								14,025	0	0
			Called and Paid-up Capital :									
			— 14 'A' class shares of Rs. 40/- each ..							560	0	0
			— 505 'B' class shares of Rs. 10/- each ..							5,050	0	0
										5,610	0	0
			— *Less* Allotment money unpaid on 3 B-class shares							15	0	0
5,575	0	0	— (Due by Directors......Nil)							5,595	0	0
			Reserve Fund :				Rs.	A.	P.			
nil			— Transferred from Profit and Loss account ..				82	0	0			
nil			— Debit balance in Profit and Loss account transferred ..				49	9	9			
										32	6	3
			LIABILITIES :									
100	0	0	— Audit fee payable							100	0	0
75	0	0	— Clerical & Rent allowances payable							..		
40	0	0	— Suspense receipt							10	0	0
275	0	0	— Due for books purchased							342	0	0
450	0	0	— Provision for Income-tax							450	0	0
..			— Unclaimed dividends							42	10	6
			Profit and Loss Account :									
442	5	1	— As per last balance sheet ..				442	5	1			
			— *Less* appropriations :									
			—— Reserve Fund	82	0	0						
			—— S. I. T. Union	82	0	0						
			—— Dividend	174	3	6						
			—— Preliminary Exp. written off	100	0	0						
							438	3	6			
							4	1	7			
			—— Loss for the year ..				53	11	4	..		
			—— Debit balance deducted from Reserve Fund as above ..				49	9	9			
6,957	5	1								6,572	0	9

K. KURUVILA JACOB,

T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN,

Directors.

LIMITED

31st December 1955.

31-12-54 Rs. A. P.	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Rs. A. P.	31-12-1955 Rs. A. P.
	Furniture :		
	At cost as per last balance sheet	78 0 0	
	Less depreciation to date ..	8 0 0	
74 0 0			70 0 0
	Stock of publications :		
1,129 12 11	As certified by the Secretary and valued at cost		1,214 12 0
	Sundry debtors for outstanding sales : (considered good)		
	Sales	694 10 0	
	Postage recoverable ..	78 7 0	
760 11 0			773 1 0
15 0 0	Prepaid Corporation tax		15 0 0
	Cash and other balances :		
	Cash with Indian Bank, Ltd., Mylapore :		
	On current account ..	347 6 2	
	On Savings Bank account ..	3,031 2 1	
	Cash on hand ..	16 12 3	
	Stamps on hand ..	3 15 3	
3,777 13 2			3,399 3 9
	Preliminary expenses :		
	As per last balance sheet ..	1,200 0 0	
	Less amount written off ..	100 0 0	
1,200 0 0			1,100 0 0
6,957 5 1			6,572 0 9

T. S. RAJAGOPALAN,
Secretary.

V. SOUNDARARAJAN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

S. I. T. U. PUBLICATIONS,

Publications and Profit and Loss Account

31-12-1954 Rs. A. P.		31-12-1955 Rs. A. P.
5 8 9	To stock of publications on 1st January 1955 ..	1,129 12 11
2,597 11 6	Publication charges	766 15 0
..	Consignment purchase	80 0 0
1,594 7 6	Gross profit carried down	638 5 1
4,197 11 9		2,615 1 0
300 0 0	To Clerical allowances	300 0 0
69 6 3	,, Printing and stationery	45 15 3
67 7 0	,, Postage	56 1 3
2 4 0	,, Share stamps	..
62 2 6	,, Conveyance	18 13 6
60 0 0	,, Madras Corporation tax	60 0 0
100 0 0	,, Audit Fees	100 0 0
4 4 0	,, Bank charges	3 12 0
18 0 0	,, Filing charges	21 8 0
2 15 6	,, Contingencies	18 7 6
39 5 10	,, Review and complimentary copies ..	79 9 0
4 0 0	,, Depreciation on furniture	4 0 0
450 0 0	,, Provision for income-tax	..
419 10 7	,, Net profit for the year	..
1,599 7 8		708 2 6

K. KURUVILA JACOB,

T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN,

Directors.

LIMITED

for the year ended 31st December 1955

31-12-54. Rs. A. P.			31-12-1955 Rs. A. P.
	By Sales		
	Collections during the year	1,266 8 0	
	Less outstanding sales on 1-1-1955 ..	731 6 0	
		535 2 0	
	Add outstanding sales on 31-12-1955 ..	694 10 0	
3,028 9 0			1,229 12 0
39 5 10	Review and complimentary copies ..	..	79 9 0
..	Consignment sales	..	91 0 0
1,129 12 11	Stock of publications as certified by secretary and valued at cost ..	..	1,214 12 0
4,197 11 9			2,615 1 0
1,594 7 6	By gross profit brought down ..	..	638 5 1
..	By interest on Savings Bank account	..	16 2 1
5 0 2	By interest on Bank current account	..	..
..	By Loss for the year	..	53 11 4
1,599 7 8			708 2 6

T. S. RAJAGOPALAN,
Secretary.

V. SOUNDARARAJAN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

S. I. T. U. PUBLICATION, LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the S.I.T.U. Publications, Limited, was held at 5-30 p.m. on Friday, the 29th June, 1956, in the office of the Company at Raja Annamalaipuram. Sri K. Kuruvila Jacob, Chairman, presided. Eleven shareholders were present in person.

Sri T. S. Rajagopala Iyengar, Secretary, read the meeting notice and presented the Report for the year 1955 together with the audited balance sheet and profit and loss account. Sri K. S. Chengalroya Iyer proposed and Sri M. P. Rajagopal seconded that the Report and the Audited statements of Accounts be adopted. The Report and the Audited Statements of Accounts were unanimously adopted.

The members suggested the publication of some non-detailed books in English and Tamil.

The President called for nominations in the place of the two retiring directors. Sri N. Subramaniam proposed and Sri S. D. Krishnamurthi Rao seconded that Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar and Sri V. B. Murthi be re-elected directors. As there were no further nominations, Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar and Sri V. B. Murthi were declared elected directors.

The General Body specially resolved, under Section 281 of the Companies Act, that the age limit shall not apply to Sri C. Ranganatha Aiyengar who has attained the age of 65.

The General Body unanimously elected Messrs. V. Soundrarajan & Co. as Auditors for the year 1956 and their remuneration was fixed the same as for last year.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and the members present, the meeting terminated.

K. Kuruvila Jacob,
Chairman.

T. S. RAJAGOPALAN,
Secretary.

Madras-28,
2nd July 1956.

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS IN INDIA

Language Problems in India: By P. Kodanda Rao, Servants of India Society, Bangalore-4.

(The following is an extract from the book with the above title.—Ed.)

Vertical Bi-Lingualism in Education.—The present arrangement, under which the mother-tongue is the medium and the local major Regional language a subject, during the first four years of the child's education, may be retained. Subsequently it is better to replace the present horizontal bi-lingualism by vertical bi-lingualism. It has been already noted that at present, the local Regional language is used as the medium of instruction in all subjects upto the college level, and the English language is used as the medium for all subjects at the college level. There is a sudden *shift* of medium. It was said by some that the sudden shift handicapped the pupils. It was said by others that, since the English language was studied as a subject in the Secondary stage, its use as the sole medium in the college stage was no serious handicap.

Recommendations.—It is suggested here that in the *Secondary and College* levels :—

(1) the English language be the *medium* of instruction for Science and Applied Science subjects, with international terminology ;

(2) the Regional language (or English if parents and pupils so desire) may be the *medium* of instruction in the Arts subjects, with the maximum use of international terminology

(3) other languages, "Indian" or other, classical or modern, may be voluntary subjects ; and

(4) every pupil shall compulsorily take at least one course in each of the three categories of knowledge, namely, the Arts, the Sciences and the Applied Sciences.

Under the scheme, every pupil, after the first four years of Primary education, will be taught through two media, English and the Regional language ; the former will be used for Sciences and Applied Sciences, and the latter for the Arts. At the same time, each pupil will be trained simultaneously for citizenship through the Arts and a vocation through Science and Applied Science.

Advantages.—There will be continuity of medium from the Secondary to the College stages, namely, English for Science and Applied Science, and the Regional language for the Arts right through. If English is to be learnt at all, it is best to start learning it as early as possible and to use it as the medium, if only for certain subjects like Science. It is not enough to learn English as a subject, like Sanskrit or Arabic, Latin or Greek. A working knowledge of English is facilitated by its regular and daily use, as and when it is used as the medium of instruction.

Under this scheme, all those who have gone beyond the first four years of education will be familiar with both the Regional language and the English language. They will have access to most modern knowledge, vocational and other, through the latter, and will improve their vocational efficiency. The resentment and humiliation that some people feel because the Regional languages are not considered fit enough for the highest education will be eliminated when these languages are used as the media for the highest level of education, if only in the Arts subjects. Linguistic units can be more easily self-contained in the Arts subjects than in the Sciences and Applied Sciences, which are much more expensive because of smaller classes and very expensive equipments. Further, the latter are more international, and are more effectively taught in national and interna-

tional institutions through ahe medium of the current international language, English, and the international terminology. As compulsory education of eight years, as prescribed by the Constitution, spreads and becomes universal, and the English and the international terminology. As compulsory education of eight years, as prescribed by the Constitution, spreads and becomes universal, and the English language is used as the medium for certain subjects in the last four years, practically the whole of the Indian population will acquire a working knowledge not only of the local Regional languages but also of the English language, with access to the latest knowledge of all kinds. Because of the large accession to the English-reading population in the world and the consequent increase in circulation, publications in the English language will increase and at the same time become cheaper without loss of efficiency. India may gain most by it.

Linguistic States.—Another very great advantage of the bi-lingualism of the Regional language and the English language is that there will be no case for the re-organisation of Indian States on the linguistic basis, with its attendant conflicts and its disintegrating tendency.

Linguistic Jealousies.—It will also avoid the current feeling that if Hindi be made the all-India language in education or administration or both, the people of North India will have an undue advantage over the people of South India and the consequent sense of unfairness and jealousy. It is highly fantastic to insist that, as a measure of reciprocity, the North Indian should learn a South Indian language! It is a reciprocity in disability. In so far as the all-India services are conducted in Hindi, the natural advantage which the North Indian will have cannot possibly be obliterated by the imposition of a South Indian language on him which is of no use to him and which he need not and will not learn as well as the South Indian will have to learn Hindi. It is an unfair reciprocity which is likely to accentuate the sense of the just grievance of the South Indian against the Hindi imperialism of the North Indian. Far from strengthening the sense of Indian nationalism, it will not only weaken it but will stimulate to an unhealthy and even dangerous degree local linguistic pride and patriotism, and the demand for linguistic autonomy and sovereignty. The lesson of the recent general election in East Bengal and its linguistic implication may not be ignored in India. If, on the other hand, the English language is continued as the chosen medium for all-India, as for international communications, its value, whether an advantage or a disadvantage, will be common to both the North and the South, and neither will have an undue advantage over the other.

Approved by all the State-Governments:

EDUCATIONAL INDIA

Edited by

Prof. M. VENKATARANGAIYA, M.A.

"I have always found 'Educational India' to be lively and interesting reading and its approach to educational problems is generally enlightened and progressive."

—Prof. K. G. Saiyidain

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Office:

MASULIPATAM (S. India)

DEPUTATION OF THE S. I. T. U. TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

A deputation of the South India Teachers' Union led by Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan, President of the Union, and consisting of Sri K. M. Ramaswamy, Sri V. Arunajatai and Srimathi Saraswathi Srinivasan waited on the Minister for Education to urge on him the need for the implementation of the pension scheme, granting of house rent allowance and medical relief to teachers in aided institutions, enhancing the dearness allowance in view of the high cost of living, establishing parity of conditions of service of teachers under all agencies and for amending suitably the agreement between teachers and managements and also the Madras Educational Rules to give effectively security of tenure to teachers.

The deputation at the outset thanked the Minister for granting fee concession up to the end of the high school course to the children of elementary school teachers and other low paid servants of government.

It pointed out that while house rent allowance and medical relief were granted to the Government servants and employees of local bodies, the teachers in aided institutions were denied these benefits for which there was no justification. The Union had been asking for these benefits for the past three years. The deputation urged on the Minister the need to grant them.

Since January this year, the cost of living has been slowly rising and now it is nearly 30% above what it was six months back. The deputation urged that the dearness allowance should be proportionately increased or the prices of essential commodities should be brought down.

The pension scheme for the elementary school teachers which the Minister for Education had announced about 16 months back had not so far been implemented. The deputation requested the Minister to give effect to it. It further requested the Minister to extend the scheme to all the teachers in high schools as the additional financial commitment involved would be not more than Rs. 50,000 per annum.

The delay in the implementation of the pension scheme created an apprehension in the minds of the teachers of Malabar and South Kanara that unless the Madras State Government gave effect to it before the merger of those districts with neighbouring States, they would not get the benefit. The deputation prayed for immediate effect being given.

Further it was pointed out to the Minister that the Madras State Government should make the T.-C. State and the Mysore State agree that the scales of salaries and other allowances which the teachers in those districts were getting now should in no way be affected.

On the question of security of tenure of teachers, the deputation brought to the notice of the Minister, that the present agreement did not effectively safeguard the interests of the teachers. It suggested suitable revision of the agreement and the Madras Educational Rules so that termination of services of teachers could be done only with the prior approval of the Director of Public Instruction.

Regarding the method of voting in the ensuing bye-election to the Legislative Council from the Teachers' Constituency, the deputation told the Minister that the Union welcomed personal voting instead of postal voting, but it pointed out that unless certain facilities were provided, a good number of teachers would find it

difficult to exercise their franchise. A large number of teachers in schools under district boards were transferred to places ranging from 15 to 30 miles from places where their names were originally registered. Since it would involve expenditure to such poor teachers to go to those places for exercising their franchise, the deputation suggested that besides opening as far as possible sufficient number of polling booths covering areas lying within a radius of five miles, teacher-voters who are far away from the places of registration should be allowed to vote on declaration given by them together with identification by authorised persons in the locality. Otherwise many teachers would be deprived of their voting.

The deputation pointed out that unless the establishment was increased, the closure of Provident Fund accounts of teachers would be unduly delayed. The Provident Fund scheme came into force in 1924. Hereafter more and more teachers will retire year after year and hence the need for increasing the establishment.

Lastly the deputation brought to the notice of the Minister the disparities that now exist in respect of scales of pay, leave rules and other conditions of service between teachers under local bodies and those under aided institutions. As a first step to remove them, the deputation suggested that there should be uniform scales of pay for all categories of teachers serving under different agencies. Parity of conditions of service would promote efficiency and remove much of discontent among teachers.

PENSION FOR TEACHERS

The Minister for Education told the Deputationists that the Government have decided to implement the pension scheme for elementary and secondary grade teachers throughout the State with retrospective effect from 1st April 1955.

Rules for the enforcement of the scheme are now being finalised and will be issued in about a week's time.

The pension scheme, announced about a year back, could not be implemented earlier, as there was some delay in getting necessary sanctions and obtaining the consent of the Auditor-General in connection with the working of the scheme. The consent has now been obtained and the Accountant-General, Madras, will work out the scheme.

The payment of pensions to secondary and elementary trained teachers and certain other categories of teachers like music instructors, etc., is likely to cost about Rs. 40 lakhs on the present scale of pay and for the present number of teachers for the next ten years. The Minister for Education explained that the benefits of the scheme would be available to secondary grade teachers employed in high schools also.

The deputationists pleaded that the pension should be extended to the other categories of teachers too, such as L.T.'s, first grade pandits, and physical directors, as the additional financial commitment would not exceed Rs. 1 lakh per annum. The Minister said that he would examine the financial implications.

The Minister asked the deputationists to suggest to him how the present agreement could be suitably modified so as to give security of tenure to teachers in aided institutions.

The Minister further told the deputationists that the suggestions in regard to voting arrangements would be forwarded to election authorities.

EDITORIAL

THE 46th STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

We heartily congratulate the Reception Committee of the 46th State Educational Conference, Chingleput on the arrangements they had made for the successful conduct of the Conference. The Conference covered a very wide ground, discussing all aspects of Education with special reference to the State. The White Paper on Education which was published a few weeks before the Conference, is of considerable importance, and discussion at all the Sectional Conferences and at the open session centered round this White Paper. The delegates of the Conference had the advantage of having discussed this White Paper at the meetings of their respective associations; and hence the decisions of the Conference on the subject may be considered not a mere endirsement of the early decision of the Executive Board but as representing the considered views of the general body of the South India Teachers' Union. We trust that the Government when they pass final orders will take due note of these recommendations.

A noteworthy feature of this Conference was the special facility provided for Conferences of Elementary Teachers, Headmasters of Secondary Schools and Assistant Masters of Secondary Schools. The Sectional Conferences usually discuss broad policies in regard to Elementary and Secondary Education, University Education and Educational Administration. Problems like conditions of service and peculiar difficulties which sections of teachers have, are often not brought before Sectional Conferences. It is therefore a matter of gratification that the organisers of the conferences were able to find special hours when Headmasters and Assistant Masters of Secondary Schools and Elementary Teachers could meet in conferences.

An interesting exhibition was organised, but we must on this occasion desire to point out that these exhibitions serve an important purpose in focussing the educational activities of the particular district where the conference is being held. Such a purpose can be achieved only if the Reception Committee could have the fullest co-operation of all the schools in the district and of all the teachers in the district. It is unfortunate that such co-operation did not seem to have been secured by the Reception Committee in organising the exhibition. However, the organisers did a good job and the exhibition did represent some of the prominent activities of the schools of Chingleput.

We are particularly grateful to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, for his great interest in the Conference. In the midst of his very heavy duties, he found it possible to be present at the Inaugural Session of the Conference and addressed the delegates on the vital problems in Education before the State. His address was of very great help in enabling the delegates to come to proper decisions during the deliberations.

It was very kind of the Chairman of the Reception Committee to have sent a message to the Conference specially as he was not quite well. Though sickness confined him to bed, he took all care to see to it that arrangements made were quite good and his message was pregnant with thoughts born of his ripe experience as Chairman of the Municipal Council of Chingleput for nearly three decades. We shall be failing in our duty if we do not express our appreciation of the good work done by Mr. T. V. Sarma, the founder Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission High School at Chingleput and all the office-bearers of the Chingleput District Teachers' Guild.

ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM TEACHERS' CONSTITUENCY

Election for one seat from the Teachers' Constituency has been notified and very shortly the teachers will be called upon to express their preference from amongst the competing candidates. Many problems concerning teachers and Education are coming before the Legislative Bodies and in these democratic days progress will be possible only if the legislators are presented with a correct picture of the problems connected with Education. Too often we have allowed others to speak on behalf of teachers and education. The framers of the Constitution have very wisely thought that Education is a very specialised field and as such those who are actively engaged in this field should be given the privilege of sending their representatives so that the country may have the benefit of their experience and knowledge. It is, therefore, incumbent on the teachers that when they mark their vote they take into consideration both the services rendered by the candidate, his ability to represent the cause and his association with the Teachers' Organisation. We do not know at the moment who are the contesting candidates, but we would invite the attention of the members to the need for having a very good representative, who will be an able exponent of the Union's point of view on all matters connected with Teachers and Education, and who has a good record of service in the Union.

We heartily congratulate the West Bengal Teachers for having elected Sri Manoranjan Sen Gupta, a teacher, to represent them in the West Bengal Legislative Council. We are quite certain that members of the South India Teachers' Union would discharge their duties as citizens by exercising their franchise wisely and judiciously.

S.I.T.U. BUILDING FUND

We commend the appeal of the S.I.T.U. for generous contribution to the Building Fund. The appeal is self-explanatory. The need for a building to house the office of the Union is very urgent. The Executive Board of the Union which considered the situation arising out of the nationalisation of Life Insurance and taking over of the S.I.T.U. Protection Fund, has placed before the General Body the proposal for putting up a building. The General Body considered how best the funds necessary may be raised. The suggestion that every member may be requested to contribute at least Rupees Two is based on reality and urgency. We appeal to all members of the Union to respond to this call. We trust that District Teachers' Guilds will undertake responsibility for taking the appeal to all the teachers and help in securing the necessary funds.

TEACHERS' CHARTER DAY

At its meeting held on 30th June 1956, the Executive Board of the South India Teachers' Union has resolved to request all its affiliated Teachers' Associations to observe the 7th August 1956 as the 'Teachers' Charter Day', in accordance with the decision of the Council of the All India Federation of Educational Associations.

It is requested that all Teachers' Associations observe 7th August 1956 as the 'Teachers' Charter Day' by holding public meetings and passing suitable resolutions on the rights and responsibilities of teachers. They may also pass resolutions on the age of retirement and the extension of pension scheme to all categories of teachers and communicate the same to the authorities and a copy to the S.I.T.U.

T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN,
President, S.I.T.U.